

March 12, 2001

S 390. EDUCATION ON PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE. *REQUIRING THE NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD TO IMPLEMENT POLICIES TO TRAIN AND EDUCATE PERSONS LICENSED TO PRACTICE OR PERSONS DESIRING TO PRACTICE MEDICINE IN THE STATE ON ISSUES RELATED TO PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE.* As title indicates; training to include continuing education, and medical schools and must include pain management, palliative care, and use of hospice services.

Intro. by Forrester and Purcell.

Ref. to Judiciary I	UNCODIFIED
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May 24, 2001

S 390. PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE/EDUCATION & CRIME. Intro. 3/12/01. House committee substitute makes the following changes to 1st edition. Changes title to *AN ACT REQUIRING THE NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD TO IMPLEMENT POLICIES TO TRAIN AND EDUCATE PERSONS LICENSED TO PRACTICE OR PERSONS DESIRING TO PRACTICE MEDICINE IN THIS STATE ON ISSUES RELATED TO PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE, AND CREATING THE CRIMINAL OFFENSE OF PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE.*

Adds new GS 14-17.2 making it a Class D felony for a licensed health-care professional to commit the offense of physician-assisted suicide, defined as participating in a medical procedure or prescribing a substance for the express purpose of assisting a patient to end his or her life (but not including participating in execution of person sentenced to death by lethal injection). None of the following constitute a violation: (1) carrying out provisions of advanced directives or living wills; (2) withholding or withdrawing life-sustaining procedure or compliance with law authorizing withdrawal or refusal of treatments or procedures; (3) medications or procedures for relief of pain or discomfort, even though risk of death is increased, as long as medication or procedure is not intentionally undertaken for purpose of causing or assisting in causing death; (4) medications or procedures for patient diagnosed with medical condition that includes element of suicidal ideation, even if risk of death is increased, as long as procedure or medication is not intentionally undertaken for purpose of causing or assisting in causing death. Effective Dec. 1, 2001; applies to offenses committed on or after that date. Amends title accordingly. Deletes "Whereas" clauses from first edition.