

SB 179 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services

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Sub-Referral To: Senate Committee On Health Care

Meeting Dates: 2/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes community-based palliative care pilot project administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS). Specifies guidelines and requirements. Requires DHS to evaluate patient satisfaction and costs every six months and report to interim committees of Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2022. Sunsets January 2, 2024.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Palliative care is focused on the quality of life of patients with serious illnesses. Palliative care involves addressing the physical, social, and spiritual needs of a patient, as well as facilitating the patient's autonomy and access to information and options. Palliative care also extends to supports for family members of patients.

Senate Bill 179 establishes a palliative care pilot project to support community-based end of life care to be administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS). The measure specifies eligibility requirements for patients, requires care to be provided by licensed clinical staff with palliative care training or certification, targets community-based locations, and lists required services. Senate Bill 179 also directs DHS to evaluate the pilot every six months and submit a report to interim committees of the Legislative Assembly no later than September 15, 2022.