

By: Representative Scoggins

To: Public Health and Human Services

HOUSE BILL NO. 630

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE STUDY AND
2 ADVISORY COMMITTEE; TO PROVIDE FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE;
3 TO PRESCRIBE THE DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE; TO REQUIRE THE COMMITTEE
4 TO SUBMIT A COMPREHENSIVE REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR, THE LIEUTENANT
5 GOVERNOR, THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, AND RELEVANT LEGISLATIVE
6 COMMITTEES NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 1, 2025; TO PROVIDE THAT
7 COMMITTEE SHALL BE DISSOLVED ON JULY 1, 2026, UNLESS REAUGHRIZED
8 BY THE LEGISLATURE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

10 SECTION 1. (1) This section shall be known as the
11 "Mississippi Hospice and Palliative Care Study and Advisory
12 Committee Act."

13 (2) The purpose of this section is to establish a
14 committee to study and provide recommendations on hospice and
15 palliative care in Mississippi, including identifying gaps in
16 care, addressing workforce challenges, and improving end-of-life
17 care services. The committee shall assess cost-saving measures,
18 the impact of hospice care on reducing inpatient hospital visits,
19 and process improvements for end-of-life care for the incarcerated
20 population.

(2) (a) There is established the Hospice and Palliative Care Study and Advisory Committee (hereinafter referred to as the "committee").

(b) The committee shall consist of thirteen (13) members, as follows:

(i) Two (2) members of the Mississippi State Senate appointed by the Lieutenant Governor;

(ii) Two (2) members of the Mississippi House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House;

30 (iii) One (1) representative from the State
31 Department of Health;

32 (iv) One (1) representative from the Mississippi
33 Division of Medicaid:

34 (v) One (1) representative from the Mississippi
35 Department of Corrections:

36 (vi) Two (2) representatives from licensed hospice
37 and palliative care providers:

38 (vii) One (1) physician specializing in palliative
39 care or geriatric medicine:

40 (viii) One (1) registered nurse with hospice or
41 palliative care experience;

42 (ix) One (1) representative from the Mississippi
43 Hospital Association; and

44 (x) One (1) representative from a nonprofit health
45 care advocacy organization

46 (c) The committee shall elect a chair and vice-chair
47 from its membership.

48 (d) Members shall serve without compensation but may be
49 reimbursed for travel expenses related to committee activities,
50 including mileage, as provided in Section 25-3-41, subject to
51 funds appropriated by the Legislature for that purpose.

52 (3) The committee shall:

53 (a) Conduct a comprehensive study on the state of
54 hospice and palliative care in Mississippi, including identifying
55 gaps in service delivery, workforce shortages, and access
56 disparities;

57 (b) Assess the financial impact of hospice and
58 palliative care services, focusing on cost savings through reduced
59 inpatient hospital visits and emergency room use;

60 (c) Evaluate care for the incarcerated population,
61 including policies, care standards, and coordination between
62 health care providers and correctional facilities;

63 (d) Identify best practices for expanding access to
64 care in rural and underserved communities; and

65 (e) Develop recommendations for process improvements,
66 training initiatives, and policy changes needed to enhance
67 end-of-life care in the state.

68 (4) (a) The committee shall submit a comprehensive report
69 to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the



70 House, and relevant legislative committees no later than December
71 1, 2025.

72 (b) The report shall include:

73 (i) Findings on current hospice and palliative
74 care service availability;

75 (ii) Cost-savings data related to reduced
76 inpatient hospital visits;

77 (iii) Identified service gaps and workforce needs;

78 (iv) Recommended policy changes for improved care,
79 including end-of-life care for the incarcerated population; and

80 (v) Legislative or administrative action
81 recommendations.

82 (5) The committee shall be dissolved on July 1, 2026, unless
83 reauthorized by the Legislature.

84 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
85 and after its passage.