

By: Representative Scoggin

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 REAUTHORIZED
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.



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

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

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

28 (ii) Two (2) members of the Mississippi House of
29 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.



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

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

(3) The committee shall:

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

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

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

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

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

(4) (a) The committee shall submit a comprehensive report 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.

