

## Physician Assisted-Suicide Bill Introduced

**MAY 5, 2017** - A bill seeking to make Delaware the fifth state to enact a physician-assisted suicide law has been introduced in the State House of Representatives.

The Delaware End of Life Options Act ([House Bill 160](#)) would establish a process that would allow terminally ill adult patients to receive lethal doses of medication. Supporters of the measure, which currently has two sponsors and three co-sponsors, maintain it would allow dying patients to end their lives "in a humane and dignified manner."

Patients seeking to take their own lives would have to be made aware of all available options, including comfort care, hospice care, and pain control. Two doctors would have to confirm the terminal diagnosis. Two waiting periods are also be part of the procedures specified in the measure.



According to Samantha Scotti, a staffer with the National Council of State Legislatures, [laws in California, Oregon, Vermont and Washington allow physicians to aid in dying](#). A court ruling in Montana protects physicians who aid dying patients from prosecution, effectively legalizing the practice there.

The bill is pending action in the House Health & Human Development Committee.