

House File 933 - Reprinted

HOUSE FILE 933
BY COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 267)

(As Amended and Passed by the House March 25, 2025)

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to pediatric palliative care centers.
- 2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act shall be known as "Mason's
2 Law".

3 Sec. 2. Section 10A.713, subsection 2, Code 2025, is amended
4 by adding the following new paragraph:

5 NEW PARAGRAPH. *r.* Pediatric palliative care centers as
6 defined in section 135J.1.

7 Sec. 3. Section 135J.1, Code 2025, is amended by adding the
8 following new subsections:

9 NEW SUBSECTION. 2A. "DMEPOS" means the same as defined in
10 42 C.F.R. §424.57(a).

11 NEW SUBSECTION. 2B. "DMEPOS *supplier*" means the same as
12 defined in 42 C.F.R. §424.57(a).

13 NEW SUBSECTION. 8A. *a.* "Pediatric palliative care center"
14 means a residential care facility as defined in section 135C.1,
15 that only serves pediatric palliative care patients and that
16 only provides respite care services as defined in section
17 135C.1, and hospice program services.

18 *b.* Notwithstanding section 135C.1, subsection 21, a
19 pediatric palliative care center may provide care and services
20 to individuals who require the services of a registered
21 or licensed practical nurse on a nonemergency basis, and
22 may provide accommodation, board, personal assistance, and
23 other essential daily living activities to fewer than three
24 individuals at any one time.

25 NEW SUBSECTION. 8B. "Pediatric palliative care patient"
26 means an individual described by all of the following:

27 *a.* The individual is under twenty-one years of age.

28 *b.* The individual has been diagnosed with a chronic,
29 complex, life-threatening illness that is expected to shorten
30 the individual's life expectancy.

31 *c.* The individual is not expected to survive past twenty-one
32 years of age.

33 Sec. 4. Section 135J.1, subsection 6, Code 2025, is amended
34 to read as follows:

35 6. "Hospice program" means a centrally coordinated program

1 of ~~home and inpatient~~ care provided directly or through an
 2 agreement under the direction of an identifiable hospice
 3 administration providing palliative care and supportive medical
 4 and other health services to terminally ill patients and their
 5 families. A licensed hospice program shall utilize a medically
 6 directed interdisciplinary team and provide care to meet ~~the~~
 7 a unit of care's physical, emotional, social, spiritual, and
 8 other special needs which are experienced during the final
 9 stages of illness, dying, and bereavement. Hospice care shall
 10 be available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

11 Sec. 5. Section 135J.7, Code 2025, is amended to read as
 12 follows:

13 **135J.7 Rules.**

14 ~~Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the~~ The
 15 department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A necessary
 16 to implement this chapter. ~~Formulation of the rules shall~~
 17 ~~include consultation~~ The department shall consult with Iowa
 18 hospice organization representatives and other persons affected
 19 by this chapter, and the rules shall, at a minimum, provide for
 20 all of the following:

21 1. A pediatric palliative care center shall not serve more
 22 than twelve pediatric palliative care patients at any one time.

23 2. A pediatric palliative care center's interdisciplinary
 24 team may include volunteers who provide a personal presence
 25 that augments other services available to a pediatric
 26 palliative care patient admitted to the pediatric palliative
 27 care center, the pediatric palliative care patient's family, or
 28 the pediatric palliative care patient's health care provider.

29 3. A pediatric palliative care center's rooms may be used
 30 for respite care services, end-of-life care, or both.

31 4. A pediatric palliative care center shall have a
 32 registered nurse or licensed practical nurse onsite and
 33 available at all times a pediatric palliative care patient is
 34 at the pediatric palliative care center.

35 5. A pediatric palliative care center shall employ a medical

1 director.

2 6. A pediatric palliative care center shall contract with a
3 hospice program to assist in the provision of core services to
4 pediatric palliative care patients.

5 7. A pediatric palliative care center shall include
6 adequate space for the family of a pediatric palliative care
7 patient to visit the pediatric palliative care patient, cook
8 for and eat with the pediatric palliative care patient, and
9 stay overnight with the pediatric palliative care patient while
10 the pediatric palliative care patient is at the pediatric
11 palliative care center.

12 8. A pediatric palliative care center shall not be required
13 to provide a pediatric palliative care patient with items
14 for the pediatric palliative care patient's health, safety,
15 or daily living needs, including but not limited to durable
16 medical equipment and medications, provided that, consistent
17 with the pediatric palliative care patient's interdisciplinary
18 team's plan of care for the pediatric palliative care patient
19 and the pediatric palliative care patient's family, the items
20 are provided by any of the following:

21 a. The pediatric palliative care patient.

22 b. The pediatric palliative care patient's family.

23 c. A hospice program contracted with the pediatric
24 palliative care center to provide such items.

25 d. A DMEPOS supplier.

26 9. Any medication brought by a pediatric palliative care
27 patient to a pediatric palliative care center as a part of the
28 pediatric palliative care patient's medical care plan shall
29 be documented by the pediatric palliative care center, stored
30 in a secure space, administered by the pediatric palliative
31 care center's staff as directed in the pediatric palliative
32 care patient's medical care plan, and returned to the pediatric
33 palliative care patient upon the pediatric palliative care
34 patient's departure, or properly disposed of upon the pediatric
35 palliative care patient's death.

1 10. A pediatric palliative care center shall be eligible for
2 funding available to other licensed residential care facilities
3 and hospice programs that treat individuals with an illness
4 or disability, including but not limited to funding from the
5 federal social services block grant, the state supplementary
6 assistance program, the hospice respite benefit, home and
7 community-based services waivers, any funding source under
8 chapter 249A, and any benefit a nursing facility under chapter
9 135C may be eligible for related to respite care services.