

Department of Planning and Budget 2016 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB473

House of Origin ☒ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed
Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron: Filler-Corn

3. Committee: Health, Welfare and Institutions

4. Title: Palliative Care Information and Education Program.

5. Summary: Directs the Board of Health to include in its regulations a requirement that every hospital, nursing home, and certified nursing facility licensed by the Board (i) establish a system for identifying patients or residents who may benefit from palliative care and (ii) provide information about and facilitate access to appropriate palliative care services for patients or residents experiencing illness, injuries, or conditions that substantially affect quality of life for more than a short period of time, including cancer, heart failure, renal failure, liver failure, lung disease, and Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. The bill also directs the Department of Health to establish a palliative care consumer and professional information and education program to maximize the effectiveness of palliative care initiatives in the Commonwealth by (a) ensuring that comprehensive and accurate information and education about palliative care is available to the public, health care providers, and health care facilities and (b) implementing such other initiatives related to education about palliative care and the delivery of palliative care services as may be necessary to educate health care professionals and the public about palliative care. The bill further establishes the Palliative Care and Quality of Life Advisory Council to advise the Department on matters related to the establishment, operation, maintenance, and outcomes evaluations of such initiatives.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary, see item #8.

7a. Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2017	\$120,506		0100
2018	\$120,506		0100
2019	\$120,506		0100

8. Fiscal Implications: The total fiscal impacts this bill would have on the Commonwealth are preliminary. In order to address the provisions of the bill, the Office of Licensure & Certification (OLC) will enforce the bill's requirement that hospitals and nursing homes maintain a viable system for identifying patients or residents who may benefit from palliative care during the biennial state licensing inspection process. OLC also will post information

and resources on palliative care available for the public on its website. The minimal amount of time and costs associated with these activities will not necessitate adding a position to the program, and can be absorbed within OLC's existing resources.

However, the bill also requires the Department to pay for the expenses incurred by the Palliative Care and Quality of Life Advisory Council (the Council) to be established by the bill. Assuming the expenses incurred by the Council would be parallel to the Board of Health, it is estimated that the annual cost of the Council would be approximately \$5,098 for travel, \$2,257 for lodging, \$1,221 for meals, and \$1,425 for miscellaneous expenses. This brings the projected total cost of the Council to roughly \$10,000 each year.

Additionally, the cost to implement the Palliative Care Consumer and Professional Education and Information Program cannot be fully determined. However, it is estimated that it would require the addition of at least one professional at an estimated cost of \$110,506 to begin addressing the provisions of the bill.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Health.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.