

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 1998 SESSION

CHAPTER 564

An Act to amend and reenact § 54.1-2987.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Emergency Medical Services Do Not Resuscitate Orders.

[H 631]

Approved April 15, 1998

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 54.1-2987.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 54.1-2987.1. Authorization to follow Emergency Medical Services Do Not Resuscitate Orders.

Qualified emergency medical services personnel or hospital emergency department health care providers shall be authorized to follow Emergency Medical Services Do Not Resuscitate Orders pertaining to qualified patients in the pre-hospital or hospital emergency department setting in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Board of Health, if the order available to such personnel is in a form approved by the Board of Health.

For the purposes of this section, an Emergency Medical Services Do Not Resuscitate Order may be issued for qualified patients who are individuals diagnosed to be afflicted with terminal conditions or patients for whom attending physicians have issued Do Not Resuscitate Orders, *including patients who, because of bona fide religious convictions, do not wish to receive medical interventions for cardiac or respiratory arrest.*

This section shall not authorize emergency medical personnel or hospital emergency department health care providers to follow an Emergency Medical Services Do Not Resuscitate Order for any patient who is able to, and does, express to such emergency medical services personnel or hospital emergency department health care providers the desire to be resuscitated prior to cardiac or respiratory arrest.

Nothing in this section or the definition of Emergency Medical Services Do Not Resuscitate Orders provided in § 54.1-2982 shall be construed to limit the issuance of or the authorization of physicians and those persons designated in § 54.1-2901 to follow Do Not Resuscitate Orders other than Emergency Medical Services Do Not Resuscitate Orders.