

## HISTORY OF AID-IN-DYING AND OTHER END-OF-LIFE EFFORTS IN MARYLAND

**1987** Lawmakers considered HB 948 (introduced by Delegate Judy Toth) to outlaw assisting suicide, but the bill was defeated.

**Summary of Proposed Legislation:** This bill makes it a felony for a person to deliberately aid or abet another person to commit suicide. Violators are subject to a maximum penalty of 30 years in jail.

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**1993** Attorney General Joseph Curran, Jr. issued a formal opinion (78 OAG 109, Sept. 8, 1993) in response to a request from Delegate Ronald A. Guns who asked whether current Maryland laws impose criminal sanctions on a physician or other health care provider who ... "*knowingly and intentionally supplies the means by which an individual takes his or her own life*".

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**1995** The *Terminal Illness-Physician Aid in Dying* Bill (HB 933) was introduced in the General Assembly by Delegate Dana Dembrow. A hearing was held, but the bill ultimately was rejected by the House Environmental Affairs Committee 15-4.

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**1996** Aid-in-Dying bill introduced in the General Assembly. HB 474: Failed attempt. Rejected by House Environmental Affairs Committee 16-5.

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**1999** Two Assisted Suicide Prohibition Bills were considered (HB 496 and SB 319). HB 496 passed the House by a vote of 78-54 and the Senate by a vote of 27-20. It was signed into law by Governor Parris N. Glendening (D).

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**2002** Article 27 § 416 was repealed and replaced by Acts 2002, c.26, § 2 (HB11), creating a new felony of "assisting" suicide.

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**2013** MD Code, Criminal Law, § 3-101 (Formerly cited as MD CODE Art. 27, § 416) is in effect.)

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**2015** The *Richard E. Israel and Roger “Pip” Moyer Death with Dignity Act* was introduced in both the Senate (SB 676) and House of Delegates (HB 1021). SB 676 was introduced by Senator Ron Young, co-sponsored by seven other Senators, and assigned to the *Judicial Proceedings* Committee. HB 1021 was introduced by Delegate Shane Pendergrass, co-sponsored by thirty-seven others Delegates, and assigned to a Joint Committee of *Health and Government Operations* and *Judiciary*. Hearings were held in both committees. Bills were withdrawn by their sponsors in both chambers prior to a vote.

A Joint Legislative Workgroup on Death with Dignity was created in the Fall 2017 and jointly chaired by Senator Victor Ramirez and Delegate Shane Pendergrass. Three meetings were held (September 8, October 6, and December 8). The purpose of the workgroup was to garner further research on Death with Dignity and develop suggestions to improve the proposed bill.

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**2016** The *Richard E. Israel and Roger “Pip” Moyer Death with Dignity Act* was introduced in both the Senate (SB 418) and House of Delegates (HB 404). SB 418 was introduced by Senator Ron Young, co-sponsored by twelve other Senators, and assigned to the *Judicial Proceedings* Committee. HB 404 was introduced by Delegate Shane Pendergrass, co-sponsored by forty other Delegates, and assigned to a Joint Committee of *Health and Government Operations* and *Judiciary*. Hearings were held in both committees. Bills were withdrawn in both chambers by their sponsors prior to a vote.

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**2017** The *Richard E. Israel and Roger “Pip” Moyer Death with Dignity Act* was introduced in both the Senate (SB 354) and House of Delegates (HB 370). SB 354 was introduced by Senator Guy Guzzone, co-sponsored by thirteen other Senators, and assigned to the *Judicial Proceedings* Committee. HB 370 was introduced by Delegate Shane Pendergrass, co-sponsored by forty-two other Delegates, and assigned to a Joint Committee of *Health and Government Operations* and *Judiciary*. A hearing was held by the Joint Committee of *Health and Government Operations* and *Judiciary*. Both bills were withdrawn by their sponsors prior to a vote.

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**2018** No bills introduced.

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