

Assembly Bill No. 1676

CHAPTER 434

An act to add Section 4806 to the Probate Code, relating to death.

[Approved by Governor September 30, 2005. Filed with
Secretary of State September 30, 2005.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1676, Richman. Advance Directives and Terminal Illness Decisions Program.

Existing law authorizes an adult to give an individual health care instruction and to appoint a person to make health care decisions for that individual in the event of his or her incapacity pursuant to an advance health care directive.

Existing law requires the Secretary of State to establish a registry system through which a person who has executed a written advance health care directive may register in a central information center, information regarding the advance directive, making that information available upon request to any health care provider.

This bill would enact the Advance Directives and Terminal Illness Decisions Program, which would require the Secretary of State to work with the State Department of Health Services and the office of the Attorney General to develop information about end of life care, advance health care directives, and registering the advance health care directives at the registry. It would also require that links to this information and the registry be available on the Internet Web sites of the Secretary of State, the State Department of Health Services, the office of the Attorney General, the Department of Managed Health Care, the Department of Insurance, the Board of Registered Nursing, and the Medical Board of California.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the Advance Directives and Terminal Illness Decisions Program.

SEC. 2. The Legislature finds and declares the following:

(a) The purpose of this act is to increase communication of end of life issues between individuals, families, and health care providers.

(b) Palliative care, including treatment options for pain, are important alternatives for patients and the health care system.

SEC. 3. Section 4806 is added to the Probate Code, to read:

4806. (a) The Secretary of State shall work with the State Department of Health Services and the office of the Attorney General to develop information about end of life care, advance health care directives, and

registration of the advance health care directives at the registry established pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 4800. This information shall be developed utilizing existing information developed by the office of the Attorney General.

(b) Links to the information specified in subdivision (a) and to the registry shall be available on the Web sites of the Secretary of State, the State Department of Health Services, the office of the Attorney General, the Department of Managed Health Care, the Department of Insurance, the Board of Registered Nursing, and the Medical Board of California.