

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS21030

In the course of updating the Medical Consent and Natural Death Act (originally two separate acts), a form called the "Physician Orders For Scope of Treatment", commonly called a "POST" was developed and language added to the Act to set the terms and conditions for the POST. This form in part was designed to replace "Do Not Resuscitate" (DNR) and "Do Not Intubate" (DNI) orders by doctors with a form that was much more flexible and which was portable, going with the person into all settings, and was binding on all treating personnel. Additionally, the form gave a number of more detailed options than either the Living Will and Durable Power of Attorney For Health Care or DNR and DNI orders would supply, thereby giving the person more control over their medical treatment.

The interaction between the POST and other medical directives, such as the Living Will and Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care, is clarified. Allowed signers of the POST are expanded to include Physician's Assistants (PA's) and Advance Practice Professional Nurses (APPN's). A new section is added to cover how a POST can be temporarily suspended. The new language gives clear methods for suspension and for resuming the POST after the suspension time has been completed.

This bill, which has been worked on and reviewed extensively for several years, will greatly clarify the law on POST forms. It will also give a person executing a POST, or other medical directives, more certainty that their wishes will be followed. It will give medical personnel clarity on how the POST form works and their responsibilities under the POST.

FISCAL NOTE

This bill will have no fiscal impact.

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