



Dying Right North Carolina
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Bill introduced to North Carolina legislature to study medical aid in dying

Bill HB 877, short name NCIOM Study/Medical Aid in Dying, has been introduced to the North Carolina legislature with bipartisan support to direct the North Carolina Institute of Medicine (NCIOM) to study medical aid in dying (MAID). Co-sponsored in the state house by Republican Representatives Donny Lambeth, John Faircloth, and Julia C. Howard and Democratic Representative Pricey Harrison, the bill would require a study on MAID to be completed by April 1, 2025. MAID has been legalized in 11 states since the first legislation took effect in 1997 as well as the District of Columbia, with bills for legalization currently pending in several additional states. North Carolina currently has no legislation that either protects or disallows MAID.

“This is huge!” said Dying Right NC Executive Director Edmund Tiryakian, speaking about the new bill. Tiryakian further explained his belief that a study that examines the legislation, process, safeguards, and impacts in other states would show that legally protected access to end of life options, such as hospice, palliative care, and MAID, increase feelings of autonomy and choice at end of life. “Even for those who don’t use it, this provides great comfort knowing that it’s available. One third of people who get a prescription for MAID don’t ever take it.”

Key points from the bill include:

- This bill would mandate a study on MAID and would not change the legal status of any end-of-life option in North Carolina
- The study would include a public hearing for comments to NCIOM
- The study would be funded (one time) with \$150,000 from the state general fund
- The study would start after the bill is signed into law and must be completed by April 1, 2025. Funding would become available as of July 1, 2023
- There is no mandatory action based on study results or recommendations

Full text of the bill: <https://dyingrightnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/H877v0.pdf>

Dying Right North Carolina is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization advocating for end-of-life options in North Carolina. For additional information or inquiries, please contact info@dyingrightnc.org or (919) 952-9092.