

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

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Legislative Document

No. 1039

H.P. 714

House of Representatives, March 17, 2009

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**An Act Concerning Advanced Directives To Give Effect to a  
Person's End-of-life Health Care Decisions**

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Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative BRYANT of Windham.  
Cosponsored by Senator BRYANT of Oxford and  
Representatives: CRAY of Palmyra, O'BRIEN of Lincolnville, PETERSON of Rumford,  
PRATT of Eddington, SMITH of Monmouth, WATSON of Bath, Senators: NUTTING of  
Androscoggin, SHERMAN of Aroostook.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. Education about communicating end-of-life decisions.** The Attorney  
3 General shall:

4 1. Develop a program to educate the public about end-of-life decisions and the steps  
5 individuals must take to have their end-of-life decisions honored by all medical  
6 personnel; and

7 2. Develop a program to educate the legal sector and others who prepare living wills  
8 and other advance directives about end-of-life decisions and the steps individuals must  
9 take to have their end-of-life decisions honored by all medical personnel.

10 **Sec. 2. Honoring decisions upon transfer from facility.** The Attorney  
11 General shall convene a study group of interested parties to address honoring health care  
12 decisions, including end-of-life decisions, when patients are transferred from nursing  
13 homes to hospitals.

14 **SUMMARY**

15 This bill directs the Attorney General to develop 2 education programs. The first  
16 education program is directed at educating the public about the steps necessary to have  
17 their end-of-life decisions honored by medical personnel. The 2nd education program is  
18 aimed at the legal community and others who prepare or help individuals complete living  
19 wills and other advance health care directives.

20 This bill directs the Attorney General to convene a study group of interested parties  
21 to ensure patients' end-of-life decisions are honored when patients are transferred from a  
22 nursing home to a hospital.