
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ACCESS TO TREATMENT FOR TERMINALLY ILL PATIENTS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the process of
2 approval for investigational drugs and biological products in
3 the United States protects future patients from premature,
4 ineffective, and unsafe medications and treatments over the long
5 run, but the process often takes many years. Patients who have
6 a terminal illness can be severely restricted in care options
7 until an investigational drug or biological product receives
8 final approval from the United States Food and Drug
9 Administration.

10 According to the National Conference of State Legislatures,
11 as of the end of 2015, twenty-five states have enacted "right-
12 to-try" legislation that makes available experimental drugs
13 without Food and Drug Administration approval to terminally ill
14 patients with no other medication or treatment options.

15 The purpose of this Act is to allow for terminally ill
16 patients to use potentially life-saving investigational drugs
17 and biological products.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§321- Access to investigational drugs and biological
5 products for terminally ill patients. (a) For the purposes of
6 this section:

7 "Eligible patient" means a person who has:

- 8 (1) A terminal illness, attested to by the patient's
9 treating physician;
- 10 (2) Considered all other treatment options currently
11 approved by the United States Food and Drug
12 Administration;
- 13 (3) Been unable to participate in a clinical trial for the
14 terminal illness within one hundred miles of the
15 patient's home address for the terminal illness, or
16 not been accepted to the clinical trial within one
17 week of completion of the clinical trial application
18 process;
- 19 (4) Received a recommendation from the patient's physician
20 for an investigational drug or biological product;



1 (5) Given written, informed consent for the use of the
2 investigational drug or biological product or, if the
3 patient is a minor or lacks the mental capacity to
4 provide informed consent, a parent or legal guardian
5 has given written, informed consent on the patient's
6 behalf; and

7 (6) Documentation from the patient's physician that the
8 patient meets the requirements of this definition.

9 "Eligible patient" does not include a person being treated as an
10 inpatient in an institution with an organized medical staff,
11 regulated under section 321-11(10), or a health care facility
12 under chapter 323F.

13 "Investigational drug or biological product" means a drug
14 or biological product that has successfully completed phase one
15 of a clinical trial but has not yet been approved for general
16 use by the United States Food and Drug Administration and
17 remains under investigation in a United States Food and Drug
18 Administration-approved clinical trial.

19 "Terminal illness" means a disease that, without life-
20 sustaining procedures, will result in death or a state of
21 permanent unconsciousness from which recovery is unlikely.



1 "Written, informed consent" means a written document signed
2 by the patient and attested to by the patient's physician and a
3 witness that, at a minimum:

4 (1) Explains the currently approved products and
5 treatments for the disease or condition from which the
6 patient suffers;

7 (2) Attests to the fact that the patient concurs with the
8 patient's physician in believing that all currently
9 approved and conventionally recognized treatments are
10 unlikely to prolong the patient's life;

11 (3) Clearly identifies the specific proposed
12 investigational drug or biological product that the
13 patient is seeking to use;

14 (4) Describes the potentially best and worst outcomes of
15 using the investigational drug or biological product
16 with a realistic description of the most likely
17 outcome, including the possibility that new,
18 unanticipated, different, or worse symptoms might
19 result, and that death could be hastened by the
20 proposed treatment, based on the physician's knowledge



- 1 of the proposed treatment in conjunction with an
2 awareness of the patient's condition;
- 3 (5) Makes clear that the patient's health insurer and
4 provider are not obligated to pay for any care or
5 treatments consequent to the use of the
6 investigational drug or biological product;
- 7 (6) Makes clear that the patient's eligibility for hospice
8 care may be withdrawn if the patient begins curative
9 treatment and care may be reinstated if the curative
10 treatment ends and the patient meets hospice
11 eligibility requirements;
- 12 (7) Makes clear that in-home health care may be denied if
13 treatment begins; and
- 14 (8) States that the patient understands that the patient
15 is liable for all expenses consequent to the use of
16 the investigational drug or biological product, and
17 that this liability extends to the patient's estate,
18 unless a contract between the patient and the
19 manufacturer of the investigational drug or biological
20 product states otherwise.



1 (b) Notwithstanding section 328-17, beginning January 1,
2 2017, a manufacturer of an investigational drug or biological
3 product may make available the manufacturer's investigational
4 drug or biological product to eligible patients pursuant to this
5 section. This section does not require that a manufacturer make
6 available an investigational drug or biological product to an
7 eligible patient. A manufacturer may:

8 (1) Provide an investigational drug or biological product
9 to an eligible patient without receiving compensation;
10 or

11 (2) Require an eligible patient to pay the costs of, or
12 the costs associated with, the manufacture of the
13 investigational drug or biological product.

14 (c) A health insurance carrier may, but is not required
15 to, provide coverage for the cost of an investigational drug or
16 biological product.

17 (d) An insurer may deny coverage to an eligible patient
18 from the time the eligible patient begins use of the
19 investigational drug or biological product through a period not
20 to exceed six months from the time the investigational drug or
21 biological product is no longer used by the eligible patient;



1 provided that coverage may not be denied for a preexisting
2 condition and for coverage for benefits that commence prior to
3 the time the eligible patient begins use of such investigational
4 drug or biological product.

5 (e) If a patient dies while being treated by an
6 investigational drug or biological product, the patient's heirs
7 shall not be liable for any outstanding debt related to the
8 treatment or lack of insurance due to the treatment.

9 (f) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a licensing
10 board may not revoke, fail to renew, suspend, or take any action
11 against a health care provider's license based solely on the
12 health care provider's recommendations to an eligible patient
13 regarding access to or treatment with an investigational drug or
14 biological product, as long as the recommendations are
15 consistent with medical standards of care. Action against a
16 health care provider's medicare certification based solely on
17 the health care provider's recommendation that a patient have
18 access to an investigational drug or biological product is
19 prohibited.

20 (g) An official, employee, or agent of the State shall not
21 block or attempt to block an eligible patient's access to an



1 investigational drug or biological product. Counseling, advice,
2 or a recommendation consistent with medical standards of care
3 from a licensed health care provider is not a violation of this
4 section.

5 (h) This section does not create a private cause of action
6 against a manufacturer of an investigational drug or biological
7 product or against another person or entity involved in the care
8 of an eligible patient using the investigational drug or
9 biological product, for any harm done to the eligible patient
10 resulting from the investigational drug or biological product,
11 so long as the manufacturer or other person or entity is
12 complying in good faith with the terms of this section, unless
13 there was a failure to exercise reasonable care."

14 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

15 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2112.



Report Title:

Terminally Ill Patients; Investigational Drugs; Biological Products

Description:

Beginning January 1, 2017, allows manufacturers of investigational drugs or biological products to make available these drugs and products to terminally ill patients under certain conditions. (SB2181 HD1)

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