AN ACT concerning health care; relating to palliative care; establishing
the palliative care and quality of life interdisciplinary advisory council;
palliative care consumer and professional information and education
program.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:
Section 1. (a) There is hereby created the palliative care and quality
of life interdisciplinary advisory council within the department of health
and environment. The purpose of this council is to develop
recommendations and advise the department of health and environment on
matters related to the establishment, maintenance, operation, outcomes
evaluation of palliative care initiatives in the state, and effectiveness of the
palliative care consumer and professional information and education
program.

(b) (1) The palliative care and quality of life interdisciplinary
advisory council shall consist of 13 members appointed on or before
October 1, 2017. The members shall be appointed as follows: (A) Two
members appointed by the governor; (B) two members appointed by the
speaker of the house of representatives; (C) one member appointed by the
minority leader of the house of representatives; (D) two members
appointed by the president of the senate; (E) one member appointed by the
minority leader of the senate; (F) one member appointed by the secretary
of health and environment who shall represent the department of health
and environment; (G) one member appointed by the secretary for aging
and disability services who shall represent the department for aging and
disability services; (H) one member of the house committee on health and
human services appointed by the chair of the house committee on health
and human services; and (I) one member appointed by the majority
leader of the house of representatives; and (J) one member of the senate
committee on public health and welfare appointed by the chair of the
senate committee on public health and welfare.

(2) Members of the palliative care and quality of life interdisciplinary
advisory council shall be individuals with experience and expertise in
interdisciplinary palliative care medical, nursing, social work, pharmacy
and spiritual guidance. Membership shall specifically include health care
professionals having palliative care work experience or expertise in
palliative care delivery models in a variety of inpatient, outpatient and
community settings and with a variety of populations including pediatric,
youth and adults. At least two members of the palliative care and quality of
life interdisciplinary advisory council shall be board-certified hospice and
palliative medicine physicians or nurses, and at least one member shall
be a patient or a caregiver.

(3) Members of the palliative care and quality of life interdisciplinary
advisory council shall serve for a period of three years and shall serve at
the pleasure of their respective appointing authorities. The members shall
elect a chair and vice chair whose duties shall be established by the
council. The department of health and environment shall fix a time and
place for regular meetings of the council, which shall meet at least twice
annually.

(4) Members of the palliative care and quality of life
interdisciplinary advisory council shall serve without compensation, but
shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the
performance of their duties.

(c) "Palliative care" means an approach that improves the
quality of life of patients and their families facing the problem
associated with life-threatening illness, through the prevention and
relief of suffering by means of early identification and impeccable
assessment and treatment of pain and other problems, physical,
psychosocial and spiritual. Palliative care:

(1) Provides relief from pain and other distressing symptoms;
(2) affirms life and regards dying as a normal process;
(3) intends neither to hasten or postpone death;
(4) integrates the psychological and spiritual aspects of patient
care;
(5) offers a support system to help patients live as actively as
possible until death;
(6) offers a support system to help the family cope during the
patient's illness and in their own bereavement;
(7) uses a team approach to address the needs of patients and
their families, including bereavement counseling, if indicated;
(8) will enhance quality of life, and may also positively influence
the course of illness; and
(9) is applicable early in the course of illness, in conjunction with
other therapies that are intended to prolong life, such as
chemotherapy or radiation therapy, and includes those investigations
needed to better understand and manage distressing clinical
complications.
Sec. 2. (a) There is hereby created the state palliative care consumer and professional information and education program in the department of health and environment. The purpose of the state palliative care consumer and professional information and education program is to maximize the effectiveness of palliative care initiatives in the state by ensuring that comprehensive and accurate information and education about palliative care is available to the public, health care providers and health care facilities.

(b) The department of health and environment:

(1) Shall publish information and resources on its website, including links to external resources, about palliative care for the public, health care providers and health care facilities. The information shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(A) Continuing education opportunities for health care providers;

(B) information about palliative care delivery in home, primary, secondary and tertiary environments; and

(C) consumer educational materials and referral information for palliative care, including hospice;

(2) may develop and implement any other initiatives regarding palliative care services and education that it determines would further the purposes of this section; and

(3) shall consult with the palliative care and quality of life interdisciplinary advisory council.

(c) "Palliative care" shall have the meaning ascribed to it in section 1, and amendments thereto.

(d) The department of health and environment shall implement this section within the limitations of existing moneys and resources already allocated to the department.

Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.