

HB 1539 -- Health Care Rights of Conscience Act

Sponsor: Stevenson

This bill establishes the Health Care Rights of Conscience Act to protect the religious, moral, or ethical principles held by a health care provider, health care institution, or health care payer. The bill:

(1) Specifies a health care provider is not required to participate in a health care service that violates his or her conscience. Any individual declining to participate in a service will not be civilly, criminally, or administratively liable and will not be discriminated against in any manner for refusing to participate;

(2) Specifies that a health care institution is not required to participate in a health care service that violates its conscience. Any health care institution that declines to provide or participate in a service will not be held civilly, criminally, or administratively liable if the patient signs a consent form before admission that he or she has been notified of the institution's right;

(3) Specifies that any person, health care institution, association, corporation, or other entity attempting to establish a new health care institution or operating an existing institution will not be discriminated against for declining to participate in a service which violates the institution's conscience;

(4) Specifies that no public official, agency, institution, or entity will deny aid or assistance because the institution has declined to participate in a health care service contrary to its conscience;

(5) Specifies that a health care payer will not be required to pay for or arrange for the payment of any health care service or product that violates the payer's conscience;

(6) Specifies that no person, association, corporation, health care payer, or other entity that owns, operates, supervises, or manages a health care payer will be held civilly, criminally, or administratively liable for declining to pay for or arrange for the payment of any health care service that violates the payer's conscience;

(7) Specifies that no person, public or private institution, or public official will discriminate against any health care payer or any person, association, corporation, or other entity

attempting to establish a new health care payer or operating an existing health care payer in any manner for declining to pay for or arrange for the payment of any health care service that violates the payer's conscience;

(8) Specifies that no public official, agency, institution, or entity will deny aid or assistance because the health care payer declines to pay for or arrange for the payment of any service that violates the payer's conscience; and

(9) Allows any individual, association, corporation, entity, or health care institution to sue for damages and injunctive relief.