

HCS HB 182 -- OUTSIDE THE HOSPITAL DO-NOT-RESUSCITATE ACT

This bill establishes the Outside the Hospital Do-not-resuscitate Act which requires that a copy of a do-not-resuscitate order must be included as the first page of a patient's medical record. A patient or patient's representative and the patient's attending physician may execute an outside the hospital do-not-resuscitate order. The Department of Health and Senior Services must develop and approve uniform forms and personal identifiers. The identifiers must alert any emergency medical technician, paramedic, first responder, or other health care provider of the existence of the order for the patient.

The bill specifies that the outside the hospital do-not-resuscitate order will only be effective when the patient has not been admitted to or is not being treated within a hospital. These orders and protocols will not authorize the withholding or withdrawal of other medical interventions such as intravenous fluids, oxygen, or therapies other than cardiopulmonary resuscitation. An outside the hospital do-not-resuscitate order will not be in effect when a patient is pregnant or when believing in good faith that a patient is pregnant.

Emergency medical technicians, paramedics, first responders, and other health care providers are required to comply with an outside the hospital do-not-resuscitate order or identifier unless the patient or patient's representative expresses to the personnel in any manner, before or after the onset of a cardiac or respiratory arrest, the desire to be resuscitated. A physician or a health care facility other than a hospital that is unwilling or unable to comply with this order must take all reasonable steps to transfer the patient to another physician or facility where the order will be followed.

The bill specifies the individuals and entities that are exempt from civil or criminal liability for withholding or withdrawing resuscitation pursuant to an order or identifier if the actions were performed in good faith and without gross negligence. Anyone who knowingly conceals, cancels, defaces, or obliterates an order or identifier without the individual's consent or knowingly falsifies or forges a revocation will be guilty of a class A misdemeanor. Anyone who knowingly executes, falsifies, or forges an order without the individual's consent or knowingly conceals or withholds the knowledge of a revocation of an order will be guilty of a class D felony.