

ACT 39 - ASSISTED SUICIDE:

- Does NOT provide immunity for nurses, pharmacists and others involved.
- Does NOT provide immunity for health care facilities.
- Does NOT require a patient to have “capacity.”
- Does NOT require that a patient be “capable” at the time of ingestion.
- Does NOT require a patient to self-administer the lethal dose.
- Does NOT require State oversight.
- Does NOT require collection of data.
- Does NOT track lethal prescriptions.
- Does NOT require annual reports.
- Does NOT have adequate rules for safe disposal of lethal drugs.
- Does NOT have provisions to investigate allegations of abuse.
- Does NOT require a disinterested witness be present at time of ingestion to verify that the patient is not under duress.
- Does NOT require a physician or health care professional to be present.
- Does NOT require that family be notified.
- Does NOT protect physicians from a duty to inform terminally-ill patients of the lethal dose option even if it is premature, does not fit the standard of care, is clinically inappropriate, or violates a physician’s ethics.
- Does NOT require that a patient be a Vermont resident.
- Does NOT allow the physician prescribing the lethal drug to contact the patient's primary physician unless the patient gives consent.
- Does NOT bar a guardian or agent from making the request for the lethal drugs.