



General Assembly

February Session, 2004

**Raised Bill No. 5629**

LCO No. 2296

\*02296\_\_\_\_\_PH\_\*

Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:  
(PH)

**AN ACT CONCERNING HOSPICE SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2004*) (a) For purposes of this  
2 section, "rural town" means towns having either seventy-five per cent  
3 or more of their population classified as rural in the 1990 federal  
4 decennial census of population, or towns that are not designated as  
5 metropolitan areas on the list maintained by the federal Office of  
6 Management and Budget, and "permanent part-time employee" means  
7 an employee who is employed and on duty a minimum of twenty  
8 hours per work week on a regular basis.

9 (b) A home health care agency licensed pursuant to chapter 368v of  
10 the general statutes that provides hospice services in a rural town and  
11 is unable to access licensed or Medicare-certified hospice care to  
12 consistently provide adequate services to patients in the rural town  
13 may apply to the Commissioner of Public Health for a waiver from the  
14 regulations licensing such agency adopted pursuant to chapter 368v of  
15 the general statutes. The waiver may authorize one or more of the  
16 following: (1) The agency's supervisor of clinical services may also  
17 serve as the supervisor of clinical services assigned to the hospice

18 program; (2) the hospice volunteer coordinator and the hospice  
19 program director may be permanent part-time employees; (3) the  
20 program director may perform other services at the agency, including,  
21 but not limited to, hospice volunteer coordinator. The commissioner  
22 shall not grant a waiver unless the commissioner determines that such  
23 waiver will not adversely impact the health, safety and welfare of  
24 hospice patients and their families. The waiver shall be in effect for  
25 two years. An agency may reapply for such a waiver.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2004</i>

**Statement of Purpose:**

To allow for Medicare reimbursement of hospice services in areas where staffing levels are unable to meet certain requirements.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*