AN ACT CONCERNING AN ADVISORY COUNCIL ON PALLIATIVE CARE.

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

Section 1. (NEW) (Effective October 1, 2013) (a) There is established within the Department of Public Health a Palliative Care Advisory Council. The advisory council shall: (1) Analyze the current state of palliative care in the state; and (2) advise the department on matters relating to the improvement of palliative care and the quality of life for persons with terminal illnesses.

(b) The advisory council shall consist of the following members:

(1) Two appointed by the Governor, one who shall be a physician certified by the American Board of Hospice and Palliative Medicine and one who shall be a registered nurse or advanced practice registered nurse certified by the National Board for Certification of Hospice and Palliative Nurses;

(2) Five appointed by the Commissioner of Public Health, one each
who shall be a licensed health care provider with experience or experience in the provision of: (A) Inpatient palliative care in a hospital or nursing home facility; (B) palliative care in the patient's home or a community setting; (C) pediatric palliative care; (D) palliative care for young adults; and (E) palliative care for adults or elderly persons;

(3) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, who shall be a licensed social worker experienced in working with patients with terminal illness and their family members;

(4) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who shall be a licensed pharmacist experienced in working with patients with terminal illness;

(5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, who shall be a spiritual counselor experienced in working with persons with terminal illness and their family members; and

(6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be a representative of the American Cancer Society or a person experienced in advocating for persons with terminal illness and their family members.

(c) All appointments to the advisory council shall be made not later than ninety days after October 1, 2013. Council members shall serve three-year terms. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

(d) Members shall receive no compensation except for reimbursement for necessary expenses incurred in performing their duties.

(e) The members shall elect the chairperson of the advisory council from among the members of the advisory council. A majority of the council members shall constitute a quorum. Such chairperson shall
schedule the first meeting of the advisory council, which shall be held not later than ninety days after October 1, 2013. The advisory council shall meet biannually and at other times upon the call of the chair or upon the request of a majority of the council members.

(f) Not later than January 1, 2015, and annually thereafter, the advisory council shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the Commissioner of Public Health and the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

| Section 1 | October 1, 2013 | New section |

Statement of Purpose:
To establish an advisory council on palliative care.

[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.]