

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2001**

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**SENATE BILL 390**

Short Title: Education on Physician-Assisted Suicide. (Public)

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Sponsors: Senators Forrester, Purcell; Allran, Berger, Bingham, Carpenter,  
Hartsell, Plyler, and Shaw of Guilford.

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Referred to: Judiciary I.

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March 12, 2001

1                                   A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT REQUIRING THE NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD TO  
3 IMPLEMENT POLICIES TO TRAIN AND EDUCATE PERSONS LICENSED TO  
4 PRACTICE OR PERSONS DESIRING TO PRACTICE MEDICINE IN THIS  
5 STATE ON ISSUES RELATED TO PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE.

6               Whereas, the North Carolina Medical Board was created to properly regulate  
7 the practice of medicine and surgery for the benefit and protection of the people of  
8 North Carolina; and

9               Whereas, the State of North Carolina has an interest in prohibiting physician-  
10 assisted suicide and protecting human life; and

11               Whereas, physicians are involved in promoting death with dignity and  
12 preventing terminally ill patients from suffering painful deaths; and

13               Whereas, there is a need for persons practicing or desiring to practice  
14 medicine in this State to receive proper training and education on the various issues  
15 related to physician-assisted suicide and pain management; Now, therefore,

16 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

17               **SECTION 1.** The North Carolina Medical Board shall implement the  
18 following policies:

- 19               (1) Require that persons licensed to practice medicine in this State receive  
20 continuing education from the North Carolina Medical Society on the  
21 topic of pain management.
- 22               (2) Require that all schools of medicine in this State develop a curriculum  
23 and train students regarding pain management, palliative care, and the  
24 use of hospice care.
- 25               (3) Advise persons licensed to practice medicine in this State of the  
26 Board's policies relating to prescribing adequate amounts of medicine  
27 to patients with terminal diseases.

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**SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.