



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

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PROHIBIT ASSISTED SUICIDE

House Bill 4039

Sponsor: Rep. Nick Ciaramitaro

Committee: Public Health

Complete to 2-5-91

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4039 AS INTRODUCED 1-31-91

The bill would amend the Public Health Code, adding a new section that would make someone who caused (or tried to cause) another person to commit suicide guilty of murder (or guilty of attempted murder) and which would create a new felony, "criminal assistance to suicide."

Someone would be guilty of criminal assistance to suicide if he or she either provided the means by which another person attempted or committed suicide or participated in another person's suicide. Criminal assistance to suicide would be a felony punishable by up to four years' imprisonment and a fine of up to \$2,000.

The bill would make two exemptions to criminal assistance to suicide: giving medicines or doing procedures that relieve someone's pain but that may increase the risk of death; and the withholding or withdrawing of medical treatment under the direction of a legally designated patient advocate (as allowed by Public Act *** of 1990). However, giving medications or doing procedures that are intended to cause death would not be exempted under the bill.

MCL 333.1295