



IOWA HOUSE DEMOCRATS

BILL AND AMENDMENT SUMMARY

Life Sustaining Procedures for Minors [HF 594](#)

Status of Bill: House Calendar
Committee: Judiciary Committee (12-9)
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Lead Democrat: Rep. Wessel-Kroeschell
Floor Manager: Rep. Hinson

Bill Summary

Prohibits a court from having the authority to require the withdrawal of life-sustaining procedures from a minor child over the objection of one of the child's parents or guardians. A court could require withdrawal of life-sustaining procedures if there is conclusive medical evidence that the child has died and any electronic brain, heart, or respiratory monitoring activating exhibited to the contrary is a false artifact.

Life-sustaining procedures mean any medical procedure, treatment, or intervention, including resuscitation, that utilizes mechanical or artificial means to sustain, restore, or supplant a spontaneous vital function and when applied to a patient in a terminal condition would serve only to prolong the dying process. Life-sustaining procedure does not include the provision of nutrition or hydration except when it is required to be provided parenterally or through intubation, or when the administration of medication or performance of medical procedures are deemed necessary to provide comfort care or to alleviate pain.

This prohibition would extend to a court of law or a court of equity. Courts of equity apply fairness, impartiality, or even-handedness instead of adhering strictly to the law. Under Iowa Code, certain civil actions, such as dissolutions of marriages (divorces) and probate matters are determined by a court in equity.

Amendment Summary

H-1009 by Wessel-Kroeschell

Strike after that provides a procedure for when a court of law or equity has authority to withdraw life-sustaining procedures from a minor child when:

- A parent or guardian of a minor child is not available or willing to be the minor's decision maker.
- There is a dispute between parents or guardians of the minor child.
- In the health care provider's reasonable medical judgment, the parent or guardian's decision for the minor child is clearly inconsistent with the minor child's intentions.
- In the health care provider's reasonable medical judgement, the decision to continue life-sustaining procedures for the minor child is not in the best interest of the minor child.