

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 970  
**Version:** As introduced

**DATE:** March 23, 2016

**Authors:** Schomacker and others

**Subject:** Let's Talk Now Act

**Analyst:** Jamie Olson (651-296-5043)

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: [www.house.mn/hrd/](http://www.house.mn/hrd/).

### Overview

This bill creates the “Let’s Talk Now Act,” which is a grant program administered by the commissioner of health to award grants to nonprofit organizations for community specific outreach on the need for advanced care planning. The bill provides grant details and requires the commissioner to issue a grant to a statewide organization to provide technical and oversight assistance to grant applicants and recipients. The bill also appropriates an unspecified amount of money for the grant program.

#### Section

- 1 **Citation.** States section 145.99 (section 2 of this bill) may be cited as the “Let’s Talk Now Act.”
- 2 **Advance care planning grant program.** Adds § 145.99.

**Subd. 1. Definitions.** Defines “advance care planning.”

**Subd. 2. Grants.** (a) Requires the commissioner of health to award grants to nonprofit organizations to develop and implement comprehensive initiatives to encourage advance care planning discussions.

(b) States the purposes of the grants, including, but not limited to, increasing societal awareness of the need for advance care planning.

(c) Requires grant initiatives to, among other things, be based on best practices and community needs and address health disparities.

## **Section**

(d) Requires grant applicants to submit an application to the commissioner by September 1, 2015, and lists application requirements.

(e) Requires the commissioner to award grants by October 1, 2015.

(f) Requires a grant recipient to report to the commissioner on the progress of the initiative at least once during the grant period and submit a final report within two months of the end of the grant period.

**Subd. 3. Technical and oversight assistance.** (a) Requires the commissioner to award a grant to a statewide advance care planning resource organization to provide planning and continued assistance to grant applicants and recipients by August 1, 2015.

(b) Requires the grantee to provide, among other things, advice on developing and implementing community-specific strategies.

**Subd. 4. Report.** (a) Requires the commissioner, in consultation with the grantee under subdivision 3, to submit a report to the legislature on the grant program by February 15, 2017.

(b) Requires the report to include, among other things, information on each grantee and recommendations on further state action to encourage the use of advance care planning.

**Subd. 5. Certain practices not condoned.** States that this section shall not be construed to condone, authorize, or approve mercy killing, euthanasia, or assisted suicide.

**3 Appropriation.** Appropriates an unspecified amount of money for the biennium ending June 30, 2017, to the commissioner of health from the general fund for the advance care planning grant program. Specifies that a certain percentage (not yet determined) may be used by the commissioner for the technical assistance and oversight grant under subdivision 3 of section 1 of this bill.