

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2007**

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**SENATE BILL 685  
Judiciary II (Criminal) Committee Substitute Adopted 5/22/07**

Short Title: Study DNR Form Signatures.

(Public)

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Sponsors:

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Referred to:

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March 13, 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN  
2 SERVICES TO STUDY REQUIRING THE SIGNATURE OF THE PATIENT'S  
3 PARENT, GUARDIAN, OR REPRESENTATIVE ON "DO NOT RESUSCITATE"  
4 ORDER FORMS.  
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6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** The Department of Health and Human Services shall study the  
8 effect of requiring a written and signed concurrence by the patient's guardian or  
9 representative on a physician's order form specifying withholding or discontinuing  
10 extraordinary means or artificial nutrition or hydration pursuant to G.S. 90-322(b). The  
11 study shall examine the anticipated effect that amending G.S. 90-322(b) to add this  
12 requirement to the current process would have on the provision, withholding, or  
13 discontinuation of care involving extraordinary means or artificial nutrition or hydration  
14 to patients. Issues that may be addressed by the Department in its study include current  
15 practices relating to issuance of "Do Not Resuscitate" (DNR) orders in other states, the  
16 addition of patient guardian or representative signatures to a physician's order form, and  
17 anticipated increases or reductions in the provision, discontinuation, or withholding of  
18 each of the types of care affected by "DNR" orders.

19 In conducting the study, the Department shall review relevant incident data  
20 and shall seek input from the North Carolina Medical Society, the North Carolina  
21 Hospital Association, and patient advocacy groups. The Department shall report its  
22 findings and recommendations to the 2008 Regular Session of the 2007 General  
23 Assembly.

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