

# Special Addendum:

## California Senate Bill 128 (“The End of Life Options Act”)

*On January 20, 2015, California State Senators Lois Wolk (D-Davis) and William Monning (D-Carmel) introduced Senate Bill No. 128 (“The End of Life Options Act”). SB 128 passed the Senate but stalled in the State Assembly after several Democrats from Southern California opposed the measure. SB 128 was then reintroduced as AB2X-15 in a special legislative session convened by Gov. Jerry Brown (D) to discuss Medi-Cal spending.*

## What is Assembly Bill 2X (AB2X-15)?

**Much like the earlier Senate version of the bill (SB 128), AB2X-15 allows terminally ill, mentally competent, adult residents of California to request, obtain, and self-administer “aid-in-dying medication.”**

To obtain this lethal dose of barbiturates,

- Two physicians must agree that patient has terminal illness with less than six months to live
- Patient must voluntarily express their wish to their physician by providing
  - Two oral requests submitted at least 15 days apart and
  - One written request signed by at least two adult witnesses
- Interpretation must be available for non-English speakers

With Governor Brown signing this landmark legislation, California becomes the fifth state to allow physician assisted suicide after Oregon, Washington, Montana, and Vermont. Last August, New Mexico’s state supreme court ruled to outlaw the practice.

In his signing message, Governor Brown noted, “In the end, I was left to reflect on what I would want in the face of my own death. I do not know what I would do if I were dying in a prolonged and excruciating pain. I am certain, however, that it would be a comfort to be able to consider the options afforded by this bill. And I wouldn’t deny that right to others.”

The law will take effect in 2016, 91 days after the special legislative session concludes. Unlike SB 128, AB2X-15 has a sunset clause and the statute will expire 10 years after its enactment on January 1, 2026.

## History

10/5/15	AB2X-15 signed into law by Governor Brown
9/11/15	AB2X-15 passes Senate (Ayes 23, Noes 15).
9/9/15	AB2X-15 passes Assembly (Ayes 44, Noes 35).
8/18/15	Reintroduced; Assembly special session as AB2X-15 by Susan Eggman (D)
7/7/15	SB 128 shelved after stalling in Assembly
6/4/15	SB 128 passes Senate (Ayes 23, Noes 15).
5/20/15	CA Medical Association drops opposition
1/20/15	SB 128 introduced

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