



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

Olds Plaza Building, 10th Floor
Lansing, Michigan 48909
Phone: 517/373-6466

ASSISTED SUICIDE

House Bill 4038

Sponsor: Rep. Nick Ciaramitaro

Committee: Judiciary

Complete to 2-4-91

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4038 AS INTRODUCED 1-31-91

The bill would amend the Michigan Penal Code to prohibit a person from assisting another to commit suicide by either providing the means by which another person committed or attempted suicide, or by acting as a participant in a suicide or attempted suicide. The offense would be a felony punishable by imprisonment for up to four years, a fine of up to \$2,000, or both. The defendant would have the burden of demonstrating by clear and convincing evidence that the person attempting or committing suicide had consented to the defendant's acts. Coercion in causing another to commit or attempt suicide would be murder or attempted murder and punishable as such.

The bill would not apply to the withholding or withdrawal of medical treatment under a durable power of attorney, nor would it apply to the administration of pain-relieving medication that might hasten or increase the risk of death, as long as the medication was not intended to cause death.

MCL 750.329a