

Children's Hospices (Funding) Bill

[AS INTRODUCED]

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[AS INTRODUCED]

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B I L L

TO

Require the Secretary of State to conduct a review of the funding of hospices specialising in the care of children and to publish proposals for measures to guarantee access to hospices for all children who require palliative care; and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Review of hospice funding

- (1) The Secretary of State must conduct a review of the funding of hospices specialising in the care of children (“children’s hospices”) in England.
- (2) The review under subsection (1) must assess—
 - (a) the adequacy of funding for hospices in England specialising in the care of children; and 5
 - (b) whether existing arrangements for funding provide equitable access to high-quality palliative care for all seriously ill children in England and their families.
- (3) Any review under subsection (1) must consider— 10
 - (a) the current funding model for children’s hospices;
 - (b) the adequacy of the level of Government funding for children’s hospices;
 - (c) the merits of centrally distributed funding for children’s hospices;
 - (d) the use of the integrated care board model and its impact on funding for children’s hospices; 15
 - (e) the long-term security of children’s hospice funding.
- (4) In carrying out the review in subsection (1), the Secretary of State must consult— 20
 - (a) relevant healthcare providers;
 - (b) hospice care workers;
 - (c) parent and patient groups.

- (5) The Secretary of State must lay a report of the review before Parliament before the end of the period of one year beginning on the day on which this Act is passed.

2 Publication of proposals

- (1) The Secretary of State must publish proposals for measures to guarantee access to hospices for all children who require palliative care in England. 5
- (2) Proposals under subsection (1) must—
- (a) have regard to the outcome of the review under section 1 of this Act;
 - (b) contain measures to secure the long term funding of children's hospices in England; 10
 - (c) contain measures to ensure high-quality palliative care for all seriously ill children in England, regardless of their location.
- (3) The Secretary of State must lay proposals under this section before Parliament before the end of the period of three months beginning on the day on which the review is laid in Parliament under section 1(5). 15

3 Extent, commencement and short title

- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales.
- (2) This Act comes into force on the day on which it is passed.
- (3) This Act may be cited as the Children's Hospices (Funding) Act 2024.

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Presented by Ian Byrne

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