

Failed Attempts to Legalize Euthanasia/Assisted Suicide in the United States

Ballot Measures

- 1991 - Washington State:** Ballot Initiative 119, which would have legalized euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide, was defeated by voters by a vote of 54 to 46 percent.
- 1992 - California:** Voters defeated Proposition 161, a ballot initiative which would have legalized euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide, by a vote of 54 to 46 percent.
- 1998 - Michigan:** Measure B was overwhelmingly rejected by voters. The measure would have legalized physician-assisted suicide and was defeated by a vote of 70 to 30 percent.
- 2000 - Maine:** The “Maine Death with Dignity Act,” patterned after the “Oregon Death with Dignity Act” which legalized physician-assisted suicide, was defeated by voters. The vote was 51 to 49 percent.

Since Oregon passed its assisted-suicide law in 1994—the only state to do so—numerous physician-assisted suicide and/or euthanasia bills have been introduced in 21 states, some multiple times. Not one has passed.

Seven states actually passed laws prohibiting assisted suicide:

Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Virginia

1994–2007 State Legislative Bills - All Failed

- Alaska:** HB 371 (1996)
- Arizona:** SB 1007 (1996)
HB 2167 (1999)
HB 2454 (2003)
HB 2564 (2004)
HB 2311, HB 2313 (2005)
- California:** AB 1080, AB 1310 (1995)
AB 1592 (1999)
AB 654 (2005)
AB 651 (2006)
- Colorado:** HB 95-1308 (1995)
HB 96-1185 (1996)

Connecticut: SB 334 (1995)
HB 6083 (1997)

Hawaii: HB 418, HB 347, SB 981, SB 692, HB 1155, SB 1037 (1999)
SB 709 (2001)
HB 2487, SB 2745 (2002)
HB 862 (2003-2004)
HB 1454, SB 1308 (2005)
HB 3013, SB 2900 (2006)
HB 675, SB 800, SB 1995 (2007)

Illinois: HB 601 (1997)

Louisiana: SB 128 (1999)

Maine: HB 552 (1995)
LD 916 (1996)
HB 663 (1997)

Maryland: HB 933, HB 474 (1995)

Massachusetts: H 33173 (1995)
H 1543 (1997)

Michigan: HB 4134 (1994)
SB 640 (1995)
SB 653 (1997)
HB 5474 (1998)

Mississippi: HB 1023 (1996)

Nebraska: LB 1259 (1996)
LB 406 (1997)
LB 70 (1999)

New Hampshire: HB 339 (1996)
HB 1433-FN (1998)
SB 44 (1999)

New Mexico: SB 446 (1995)

New York: S 1683, S 5024-A, A 6333 (1995)
SB 4834 (1999)
SB 677 (2001)

Rhode Island: SB 2985 (1995)
SB 2869 (1998)

Vermont: H 335 (1995)
H 109 (1997)

Vermont (cont.):

H 493 (1999)
H 318 (2003-2004)
H 168 (2005-2006)
H 44, S 63 (2007)

Washington: SB 5596 (1995)

SB 6576 (1998)
SB 6843 (2006)

Wisconsin: AB 174, SB 90 (1995)

AB 32, SB 27 (1997)
AB 297, SB 124 (1999)
AB 417, SB 184 (2001)
AB 348, SB 169 (2003)
AB 507, SB 224 (2005)

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The above information was provided by:

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