

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

# HOUSE BILL

## No. 1240

Session of  
1977

---

INTRODUCED BY McLANE, KELLY, TRELLO, A. K. HUTCHINSON,  
RAVENSTAHL, MISCEVICH, GILLETTE, BROWN, JONES, HASAY, LEVI,  
FREIND AND F. TAYLOR, JUNE 6, 1977

---

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND WELFARE, JUNE 6, 1977

---

AN ACT

1 Permitting the use of amygdalin (laetrile) by persons who  
2 receive a prescription for same; authorizing physicians to  
3 prescribe amygdalin.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. A hospital or other health care facility may not  
7 interfere with the physician-patient relationship by restricting  
8 or forbidding the use of amygdalin (laetrile) as an adjunct to  
9 recognized, customary or accepted modes of therapy in the  
10 treatment of any malignancy, disease, illness or physical  
11 condition when it is prescribed or administered by any person  
12 licensed to practice medicine in this Commonwealth and the  
13 patient has signed the "written informed request" therefor as  
14 set forth in section 5.

15 Section 2. A person licensed to practice medicine may not be  
16 subjected to disciplinary action by any licensing board for  
17 prescribing or administering amygdalin (laetrile) to a patient  
18 under his care as an adjunct to recognized, customary or

1 accepted modes of therapy in the treatment of any malignancy,  
2 disease, illness or physical condition, if and when the patient  
3 has signed the "written informed request" therefor as set forth  
4 in section 5.

5 Section 3. A person licensed to practice medicine may  
6 prescribe or administer amygdalin (laetrile) in lieu of or in  
7 addition to customary or accepted modes of therapy in the  
8 treatment of any malignancy, disease, illness or physical  
9 condition of a patient who has signed the "written informed  
10 request" as set forth in section 5.

11 Section 4. Nothing in this act shall be construed as  
12 constituting an endorsement of amygdalin (laetrile) for the  
13 treatment of any malignancy, disease, illness or physical  
14 condition, and nothing in this act shall be construed as  
15 preventing a physician from prescribing amygdalin (laetrile) as  
16 a dietary supplement to a patient not suffering from any known  
17 malignancy, disease, illness or physical condition upon  
18 execution of said "written informed request" therefor.

19 Section 5. The "written informed request" referred to in  
20 this act shall be on a form prepared by, and obtained from, the  
21 State Board of Medical Education and Licensure and shall be in  
22 substance as follows:

23 WRITTEN INFORMED REQUEST

24 FOR PRESCRIPTION OF AMYGDALIN

25 (LAETRILE) FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT

26 Patient's name:.....

27 Address.....

28 Age.....Sex.....

29 Name and address of prescribing physician:

30 .....

1 Malignancy, disease, illness or physical condition diagnosed  
2 for medical treatment by amygdalin (laetrile) or its use as a  
3 dietary supplement:

4 .....

5 .....

6 My physician has explained to me:

7 (a) That the manufacture and distribution of amygdalin  
8 (laetrile) has been banned by the Federal Food and Drug  
9 Administration.

10 (b) That neither the American Cancer Society, the  
11 American Medical Association, nor the Pennsylvania Medical  
12 Society recommend use of amygdalin (laetrile) in the  
13 treatment of any malignancy, disease, illness or physical  
14 condition.

15 (c) That there are alternative recognized treatments for  
16 the malignancy, disease, illness or physical condition from  
17 which I suffer which he has offered to provide for me  
18 including: (Here describe)

19 .....

20 .....

21 That notwithstanding the foregoing, I hereby request  
22 prescription and use of amygdalin (laetrile) (a) in the medical  
23 treatment of the malignancy, disease, illness or physical  
24 condition from which I suffer [ ], or (b) as a dietary  
25 supplement [ ] (check (a) or (b)).

26 .....

27 Patient or person signing for patient

28 ATTEST:

29 .....

30 Prescribing physician

1 A copy of such "written informed request" shall be forwarded  
2 forthwith after execution thereof to the State Board of Medical  
3 Registration and Examination for appropriate filing.

4 Section 6. (a) Nothing in this act requires any physician,  
5 any pharmacist, any pharmacy, any manufacturer or distributor to  
6 manufacture, sell or distribute amygdalin (laetrile), and  
7 nothing requires any physician to prescribe amygdalin (laetrile)  
8 for any patient.

9 (b) If the Federal Government indicates that it will  
10 withdraw all Federal funds from a health care facility for  
11 allowing amygdalin (laetrile) to be used within the facility,  
12 and if providing or allowing its use within the facility would  
13 jeopardize the receipt of Federal funds for reimbursement for  
14 Medicare or Medicaid for all persons within the facility, or any  
15 construction funds provided by the Federal Government under the  
16 Hill-Burton Hospital Construction Program or under Title XVI of  
17 the Public Health Services Act, the hospital or other health  
18 care facility may, notwithstanding the provisions of section 1,  
19 prohibit the use of amygdalin (laetrile) within its facility.

20 Section 7. This act shall take effect immediately.