HOUSE BILL 20-1425

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Geitner and Hooton, Landgraf, Herod, Singer, Valdez A., Van Winkle, Becker; also SENATOR(S) Smallwood and Ginal, Bridges, Cooke, Coram, Crowder, Lundeen, Marble, Priola, Story, Tate, Todd, Winter, Woodward.

CONCERNING HOSPITAL PATIENT VISITATION RIGHTS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 25-3-125 as follows:

25-3-125. Patient visitation rights during COVID-19 - legislative declaration - definition - repeal.(1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HEREBY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:

(a) THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC HAS PRODUCED CHALLENGES TO THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS IN COLORADO;

(b) HOSPITALS HAVE MADE MANY EFFORTS TO KEEP PATIENTS AND EMPLOYEES IN A SAFE ENVIRONMENT AND HAVE ENDEavored TO MINIMIZE,
TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, THE RISK OF SPREADING COVID-19;

(c) AS A RESULT OF MEASURES TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19, HOSPITALS HAVE INSTITUTED POLICIES THAT LIMIT PATIENTS' ABILITY TO BE PHYSICALLY PRESENT WITH THEIR LOVED ONES DURING THEIR HOSPITALIZATION AND TREATMENT;

(d) MANY PATIENTS NOT DIAGNOSED WITH COVID-19 HAVE THEREFORE BEEN ALONE DURING THEIR TREATMENT FOR SERIOUS CONDITIONS, TRAUMAS, ILLNESSES, HEART ATTACKS, AND ROUTINE AND EMERGENCY SURGERIES; SOME HAVE BEEN FORCED TO BE ALONE FOR THE ENTIRE COURSE OF THEIR TREATMENT, AND, IN SOME CASES, PATIENTS HAVE DIED ALONE; AND

(e) IN ORDER TO BALANCE THE NEED TO REDUCE VIRUS TRANSMISSION WITH THE BENEFITS OF HAVING FAMILY MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ILLNESS, ESPECIALLY AT THE END OF LIFE, AS KNOWLEDGE OF COVID-19 ADVANCES, HOSPITALS ARE ENCOURAGED TO FOLLOW INFECTION PREVENTION PROTOCOLS AND IDENTIFY WAYS TO IMPROVE VISITATION POLICIES WHILE STILL FOLLOWING BEST PRACTICES.

(2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES, "COVID-19" MEANS THE RESPIRATORY ILLNESS CAUSED BY SEVERE ACUTE RESPIRATORY SYNDROME CORONAVIRUS 2, OR SARS-CoV-2.

(3) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 30, 2021.

SECTION 2. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds,
determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.

KC Becker  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Leroy M. Garcia  
PRESIDENT OF  
THE SENATE

Robin Jones  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Cindi L. Markwell  
SECRETARY OF  
THE SENATE

APPROVED  June 29, 2020 at 2:44 pm  
(Date and Time)

Jared S. Polis  
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PAGE 3-HOUSE BILL 20-1425