

NOTE: This bill has been prepared for the signatures of the appropriate legislative officers and the Governor. To determine whether the Governor has signed the bill or taken other action on it, please consult the legislative status sheet, the legislative history, or the Session Laws.



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,

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

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(3) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 30, 2021.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 _____
(Date and Time)

Jared S. Polis
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF COLORADO