

## CHAPTER 179

---

**HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT**


---

**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.

**AN ACT****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

---

*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.*

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(3) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 30, 2021.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

Approved: June 29, 2020