

HOUSE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE REPORT

June 11, 2020

Chair of Committee

Date

Committee on Public Health Care & Human Services.

After consideration on the merits, the Committee recommends the following:

HB20-1425 be amended as follows, and as so amended, be referred to the Committee of the Whole with favorable recommendation:

1 Amend printed bill, strike everything below the enacting clause and
2 substitute:

3 "SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 25-3-124 as
4 follows:

5 **25-3-124. Patient visitation rights during COVID-19 -**
6 **legislative declaration - definition - repeal.** (1) THE GENERAL
7 ASSEMBLY HEREBY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:

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

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

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

17 (d) MANY PATIENTS NOT DIAGNOSED WITH COVID-19 HAVE
18 THEREFORE BEEN ALONE DURING THEIR TREATMENT FOR SERIOUS
19 CONDITIONS, TRAUMAS, ILLNESSES, HEART ATTACKS, AND ROUTINE AND
20 EMERGENCY SURGERIES; AND

21 (e) IN ORDER TO BALANCE THE NEED TO REDUCE VIRUS
22 TRANSMISSION WITH THE BENEFITS OF HAVING FAMILY MEMBERS PRESENT
23 DURING ILLNESS, ESPECIALLY AT THE END OF LIFE, AS KNOWLEDGE OF

1 COVID-19 ADVANCES, HOSPITALS ARE ENCOURAGED TO FOLLOW
2 INFECTION PREVENTION PROTOCOLS AND IDENTIFY WAYS TO IMPROVE
3 VISITATION POLICIES WHILE STILL FOLLOWING BEST PRACTICES.
4 (2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
5 REQUIRES, "COVID-19" MEANS THE RESPIRATORY ILLNESS CAUSED BY
6 SEVERE ACUTE RESPIRATORY SYNDROME CORONAVIRUS 2, OR
7 SARS-CoV-2.
8 (3) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 30, 2021.
9 **SECTION 2. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
10 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
11 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety."

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