

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

PREAMENDED

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 22-0583.01 Kristen Forrestal x4217

SENATE BILL 22-053

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Sonnenberg,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Pelton,

Senate Committees

State, Veterans, & Military Affairs
Appropriations

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING VISITATION RIGHTS AT HEALTH-CARE FACILITIES.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

The bill specifies that a patient admitted to a hospital for inpatient care and a resident of a nursing care facility or assisted living residence may have at least one visitor of the patient's or resident's choosing during the stay or residency. A hospital, a nursing care facility, and an assisted living residence (collectively referred to as "health-care facility") must have written policies and procedures regarding the visitation rights of patients and residents, including policies and procedures setting forth any clinically necessary or reasonable restriction or limitation that the

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

health-care facility may need to place on patient and resident visitation rights and the reasons for the restriction or limitation.

The bill prohibits a health-care facility from adopting policies or procedures that prohibit visitation of a patient or resident if the sole reason for the prohibition is to reduce the risk of transmission of a pandemic disease, but a health-care facility may impose specified restrictions and limitations for visitors to reduce the risk of transmission of the pandemic disease.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **recreate and**
3 **reenact, with amendments, 25-3-125** as follows:

4 **25-3-125. Visitation rights - hospital patients - residents in**
5 **nursing care facilities or assisted living residences - limitations during**
6 **a pandemic - definitions - short title.** (1) THE SHORT TITLE OF THIS
7 SECTION IS THE "NO PATIENT OR RESIDENT LEFT ALONE ACT".

8 (2) (a) IN ADDITION TO HOSPITAL PATIENT VISITATION RIGHTS
9 SPECIFIED IN 42 CFR 482.13 (h) AND SUBJECT TO THE RESTRICTIONS AND
10 LIMITATIONS SPECIFIED BY A HEALTH-CARE FACILITY PURSUANT TO
11 SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION, A PATIENT OR RESIDENT OF A
12 HEALTH-CARE FACILITY MAY HAVE AT LEAST ONE VISITOR OF THE
13 PATIENT'S OR RESIDENT'S CHOOSING DURING THE PATIENT'S STAY OR
14 RESIDENCY AT THE HEALTH-CARE FACILITY, INCLUDING:

15 (I) A VISITOR TO PROVIDE A COMPASSIONATE CARE VISIT TO
16 ALLEVIATE THE PATIENT'S OR RESIDENT'S PHYSICAL OR MENTAL DISTRESS;

17 (II) A VISITOR OR SUPPORT PERSON DESIGNATED PURSUANT TO
18 SUBSECTION (2)(b) OF THIS SECTION FOR A PATIENT OR RESIDENT WITH A
19 DISABILITY; AND

20 (III) FOR A PATIENT WHO IS UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE, THE
21 PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF, OR THE PERSON STANDING IN LOCO

1 PARENTIS TO, THE PATIENT.

2 (b) (I) A PATIENT OR RESIDENT OF A HEALTH-CARE FACILITY MAY
3 DESIGNATE, ORALLY OR IN WRITING, A SUPPORT PERSON WHO SUPPORTS
4 THE PATIENT OR RESIDENT DURING THE COURSE OF THE PATIENT'S STAY OR
5 RESIDENCY AT A HEALTH-CARE FACILITY AND WHO MAY VISIT THE
6 PATIENT OR RESIDENT AND EXERCISE THE PATIENT'S OR RESIDENT'S
7 VISITATION RIGHTS ON BEHALF OF THE PATIENT OR RESIDENT WHEN THE
8 PATIENT OR RESIDENT IS INCAPACITATED OR OTHERWISE UNABLE TO
9 COMMUNICATE.

10 (II) WHEN A PATIENT OR RESIDENT HAS NOT DESIGNATED A
11 SUPPORT PERSON PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)(b)(I) OF THIS SECTION
12 AND IS INCAPACITATED OR OTHERWISE UNABLE TO COMMUNICATE THE
13 PATIENT'S OR RESIDENT'S WISHES AND AN INDIVIDUAL PROVIDES AN
14 ADVANCE MEDICAL DIRECTIVE DESIGNATING THE INDIVIDUAL AS THE
15 PATIENT'S OR RESIDENT'S SUPPORT PERSON OR OTHER TERM INDICATING
16 THE INDIVIDUAL IS AUTHORIZED TO EXERCISE RIGHTS COVERED BY THIS
17 SECTION ON BEHALF OF THE PATIENT OR RESIDENT, THE HEALTH-CARE
18 FACILITY SHALL ACCEPT THIS DESIGNATION AND ALLOW THE INDIVIDUAL
19 TO EXERCISE THE PATIENT'S OR RESIDENT'S VISITATION RIGHTS ON THE
20 PATIENT'S OR RESIDENT'S BEHALF.

21 (3) (a) CONSISTENT WITH 42 CFR 482.13 (h), A HEALTH-CARE
22 FACILITY SHALL HAVE WRITTEN POLICIES AND PROCEDURES REGARDING
23 THE VISITATION RIGHTS OF PATIENTS AND RESIDENTS, INCLUDING POLICIES
24 AND PROCEDURES SETTING FORTH ANY CLINICALLY NECESSARY OR
25 REASONABLE RESTRICTION OR LIMITATION THAT THE HEALTH-CARE
26 FACILITY MAY NEED TO PLACE ON PATIENT OR RESIDENT VISITATION
27 RIGHTS AND THE REASONS FOR THE RESTRICTION OR LIMITATION, SUBJECT

1 TO SUBSECTION (3)(b) OF THIS SECTION.

2 (b) A HEALTH-CARE FACILITY MAY IMPOSE RESTRICTIONS AND
3 LIMITATIONS ON VISITORS AS SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (3)(c) OF THIS
4 SECTION; EXCEPT THAT A HEALTH-CARE FACILITY SHALL NOT IMPOSE
5 RESTRICTIONS AND LIMITATIONS THAT ARE MORE RESTRICTIVE THAN THE
6 CURRENT APPLICABLE GUIDELINES FOR VISITATION ISSUED BY THE
7 FEDERAL CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES.

8 (c) (I) DURING A PERIOD WHEN THE RISK OF TRANSMISSION OF A
9 PANDEMIC DISEASE IS HEIGHTENED, REGARDLESS OF KNOWN COMMUNITY
10 TRANSMISSION, A HEALTH-CARE FACILITY MAY:

11 (A) REQUIRE VISITORS TO ENTER THE HEALTH-CARE FACILITY
12 THROUGH A SINGLE, DESIGNATED ENTRANCE;

13 (B) DENY ENTRANCE TO A VISITOR WHO HAS KNOWN SYMPTOMS
14 OF THE PANDEMIC DISEASE AND SHOULD ENCOURAGE THE VISITOR TO SEEK
15 CARE;

16 (C) REQUIRE VISITORS TO USE MEDICAL MASKS, FACE COVERINGS,
17 OR OTHER PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT WHILE ON THE
18 HEALTH-CARE FACILITY PREMISES OR IN SPECIFIC AREAS OF THE
19 HEALTH-CARE FACILITY; AND

20 (D) REQUIRE VISITORS TO SIGN A WAIVER ACKNOWLEDGING THE
21 RISKS OF ENTERING THE HEALTH-CARE FACILITY, WAIVING ANY CLAIMS
22 AGAINST THE HEALTH-CARE FACILITY IF THE VISITOR CONTRACTS THE
23 PANDEMIC DISEASE WHILE ON THE HEALTH-CARE FACILITY PREMISES, AND
24 ACKNOWLEDGING THAT VERBAL AND PHYSICAL ASSAULTS ON
25 HEALTH-CARE WORKERS AND OTHER EMPLOYEES OF THE HEALTH-CARE
26 FACILITY WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

27 (II) DURING A PERIOD OF KNOWN COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION OF

1 A PANDEMIC DISEASE, IN ADDITION TO THE RESTRICTIONS AND
2 LIMITATIONS SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (3)(c)(I) OF THIS SECTION, A
3 HEALTH-CARE FACILITY MAY:

4 (A) REQUIRE ALL VISITORS, BEFORE ENTERING THE HEALTH-CARE
5 FACILITY, TO BE SCREENED FOR SYMPTOMS OF THE PANDEMIC DISEASE AND
6 DENY ENTRANCE TO ANY VISITOR WHO HAS SYMPTOMS OF THE PANDEMIC
7 DISEASE; AND

8 (B) DURING WIDESPREAD COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION OF THE
9 PANDEMIC DISEASE, LIMIT ACCESS TO THE HEALTH-CARE FACILITY TO
10 ONLY CAREGIVERS WHO ARE ESSENTIAL FOR HELPING TO PROVIDE PATIENT
11 OR RESIDENT CARE OR TO PROVIDE A COMPASSIONATE CARE VISIT AND
12 REQUIRE THOSE CAREGIVERS TO WEAR A MEDICAL MASK, FACE COVERING,
13 OR OTHER PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT.

14 (III) FOR VISITATION OF A PATIENT OR RESIDENT WITH A
15 COMMUNICABLE DISEASE WHO IS ISOLATED, THE HEALTH-CARE FACILITY
16 MAY:

17 (A) LIMIT VISITATION TO ESSENTIAL CAREGIVERS WHO ARE
18 HELPING TO PROVIDE CARE TO THE PATIENT OR RESIDENT;

19 (B) LIMIT VISITATION TO ONE CAREGIVER AT A TIME PER PATIENT
20 OR RESIDENT WITH A COMMUNICABLE DISEASE;

21 (C) SCHEDULE VISITORS TO ALLOW ADEQUATE TIME FOR
22 SCREENING, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING OF VISITORS AND TO COMPLY WITH
23 ANY LIMITS ON THE NUMBER OF VISITORS PERMITTED IN THE ISOLATED
24 AREA AT ONE TIME;

25 (D) RESTRICT THE MOVEMENT OF VISITORS WITHIN THE
26 HEALTH-CARE FACILITY; AND

27 (E) PROHIBIT THE PRESENCE OF VISITORS DURING

1 AEROSOL-GENERATING PROCEDURES OR DURING COLLECTION OF
2 RESPIRATORY SPECIMENS.

3 (4) IF A HEALTH-CARE FACILITY REQUIRES, PURSUANT TO
4 SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION, THAT A VISITOR USE A MEDICAL MASK,
5 FACE COVERING, OR OTHER PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT IN ORDER
6 TO VISIT A PATIENT OR RESIDENT AT THE HEALTH-CARE FACILITY, NOTHING
7 IN THIS SECTION:

8 (a) REQUIRES THE HEALTH-CARE FACILITY, IF THE REQUIRED
9 EQUIPMENT IS NOT AVAILABLE DUE TO LACK OF SUPPLY, TO ALLOW A
10 VISITOR TO ENTER THE FACILITY;

11 (b) REQUIRES THE HEALTH-CARE FACILITY TO SUPPLY THE
12 REQUIRED EQUIPMENT TO THE VISITOR OR BEAR THE COST OF THE
13 EQUIPMENT FOR THE VISITOR; OR

14 (c) PRECLUDES THE HEALTH-CARE FACILITY FROM SUPPLYING THE
15 REQUIRED EQUIPMENT TO THE VISITOR.

16 (5) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
17 REQUIRES:

18 (a) "ADVANCE MEDICAL DIRECTIVE" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS
19 SET FORTH IN SECTION 15-18.7-102 (2).

20 (b) "CAREGIVER" MEANS A PARENT, SPOUSE, OR OTHER FAMILY
21 MEMBER OR FRIEND OF A PATIENT WHO PROVIDES CARE TO THE PATIENT.

22 (c) "COMMUNICABLE DISEASE" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS SET
23 FORTH IN SECTION 25-1.5-102 (1)(a)(IV).

24 (d) (I) "COMPASSIONATE CARE VISIT" MEANS A VISIT WITH A
25 FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER THAT IS NECESSARY TO MEET THE PHYSICAL
26 OR MENTAL NEEDS OF A PATIENT OR RESIDENT WHEN THE PATIENT OR
27 RESIDENT IS EXHIBITING SIGNS OF PHYSICAL OR MENTAL DISTRESS,

1 INCLUDING:

2 (A) END-OF-LIFE SITUATIONS;

3 (B) ADJUSTMENT SUPPORT AFTER MOVING TO A NEW FACILITY OR

4 ENVIRONMENT;

5 (C) EMOTIONAL SUPPORT AFTER THE LOSS OF A FRIEND OR FAMILY

6 MEMBER;

7 (D) PHYSICAL SUPPORT AFTER EATING OR DRINKING ISSUES,

8 INCLUDING WEIGHT LOSS OR DEHYDRATION; OR

9 (E) SOCIAL SUPPORT AFTER FREQUENT CRYING, DISTRESS, OR

10 DEPRESSION.

11 (II) "COMPASSIONATE CARE VISIT" INCLUDES A VISIT FROM:

12 (A) A CLERGY MEMBER OR LAYPERSON OFFERING RELIGIOUS OR

13 SPIRITUAL SUPPORT; OR

14 (B) OTHER PERSONS REQUESTED BY THE PATIENT OR RESIDENT FOR

15 THE PURPOSE OF A COMPASSIONATE CARE VISIT.

16 (e) "HEALTH-CARE FACILITY" MEANS A HOSPITAL, NURSING CARE

17 FACILITY, OR ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENCE LICENSED OR CERTIFIED BY THE

18 DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 25-3-101.

19 (f) "PANDEMIC DISEASE" MEANS AN EPIDEMIC DISEASE, AS DEFINED

20 IN SECTION 25-1.5-102 (1)(a)(III), THAT HAS SPREAD OVER MULTIPLE

21 COUNTRIES OR CONTINENTS.

22 (g) "PATIENT OR RESIDENT WITH A DISABILITY" MEANS A PATIENT

23 OR RESIDENT WHO NEEDS ASSISTANCE TO EFFECTIVELY COMMUNICATE

24 WITH HEALTH-CARE FACILITY STAFF, MAKE HEALTH-CARE DECISIONS, OR

25 ENGAGE IN ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING DUE TO A DISABILITY SUCH AS:

26 (I) A PHYSICAL, INTELLECTUAL, BEHAVIORAL, OR COGNITIVE

27 DISABILITY;

1 (II) DEAFNESS, BEING HARD OF HEARING, OR OTHER
2 COMMUNICATION BARRIERS;

3 (III) BLINDNESS;

4 (IV) AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER; OR

5 (V) DEMENTIA.

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