

GREEN SHEET REDIGEST

HB 291

2023 Regular Session

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HEALTH CARE/FACILITIES. Provides for visitation policies at certain healthcare facilities and requires that such policies allow for in-person visitation.

DIGEST

Proposed law shall be known and may be cited as the "No Patient Left Alone Law".

Proposed law applies to all of the following facilities:

- (1) Licensed centers that provide care for persons with developmental disabilities as defined in present law.
- (2) Hospitals as defined in present law.
- (3) Licensed facilities that provide inpatient hospice care as defined in present law.
- (4) Nursing homes as defined in present law.

Proposed law provides for legislative findings.

Proposed law provides that visitation policies and procedures may not require visitors to submit proof of any vaccination or immunization.

Proposed law further provides that visitation policies shall allow consensual nonsexual physical contact such as hand holding or hugging.

Proposed law requires a facility to submit a written copy of its visitation policies and procedures to the Health Standards Section of the La. Dept. of Health (LDH) at the initial licensure survey. Proposed law further requires visitation policies and procedures to be made available for review by LDH at any time, upon request.

Proposed law requires a facility to make its policies and procedures easily accessible from the homepage of its website no later than 24 hours after establishing the policies and procedures required by proposed law.

Proposed law requires LDH to dedicate a stand-alone page on its website to explain the visitation requirements set forth in proposed law and provide a link to the department's webpage to report complaints.

(Amends R.S. 40:2005.1(B)(2)(a), 2009.4(A)(7)(b), 2166.5(B)(12)(b), 2180.2(11)(a)(ii) and (iii), and 2184(2)(d); Adds R.S. 40:1300.51-1300.55)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill:

1. Insert language to specify that the provisions of proposed law apply to licensed facilities that provide inpatient hospice care.
2. Require facilities to submit a written copy of visitation policies and procedures to the Health Standards Section of the Louisiana Department of Health at the initial licensure survey.

3. Require the La. Dept. of Health to dedicate a stand-alone page on its website to explain the visitation requirements of proposed law and provide a link to the department's webpage to report complaints.
4. Make technical corrections.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Health and Welfare to the engrossed bill

1. Provide for legislative findings.
2. Remove proposed law requiring facilities to establish visitation policies.
3. Remove proposed law providing for the designation of an essential caregiver.
4. Add references to present law providing for in-person visitation rights.
5. Provide for visitation policies to include the right to consensual nonsexual physical contact such as hand holding or hugging.
6. Provide for visitation policies to not require visitors to submit proof of any vaccination or immunization.
7. Make technical changes.