

## HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB 976

2024 Regular Session

Owen

HEALTH CARE/FACILITIES: Provides relative to visitation policies at certain healthcare facilities and requires such facilities to allow in-person visitation

### Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Provides an exemption for licensed forensic psychiatric hospitals.
2. Requires a designated essential caregiver to agree in writing to follow a facility's visitation policies and procedures.

### Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Proposed law changes present law short title from the "No Patient Left Alone Law" to the "Don Scoggins Law".

Present 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 removes present law provision.

Proposed law further requires a facility, as provided in present law, to allow in-person visitation by the designated essential caregiver daily in addition to any other visitation authorized by the facility.

Proposed law states that proposed law shall not apply to licensed forensic psychiatric hospitals.

Present law requires a facility to make its visitation policies and procedures available for review by LDH at any time upon request after licensure.

Proposed law removes present law provision.

Proposed law further allows a resident, client, or patient to designate at least one visitor who is a family member, friend, guardian, or other individual as a designated essential caregiver.

Proposed law does not require a designated essential caregiver to provide advance notice of the intent to visit the patient. Proposed law also does not require the designated essential caregiver to provide necessary care to a resident, client, or patient of a facility, and a facility providing such care shall not require a designated essential caregiver to provide such care.

Present law provides that within 24 hours after establishing the policies and procedures required by present law, the facility shall make its policies and procedures easily accessible from the homepage of its website.

Proposed law removes present law provision.

Proposed law further requires the visitation provisions of proposed law to allow in-person visitation unless otherwise restricted by law or by order of the court.

Present law requires LDH to dedicate a stand-alone page on its website to explain the visitation requirements of present law and provide a link to LDH's webpage to report

complaints.

Proposed law removes present law provision.

Proposed law further provides that a facility's policies and procedures shall require a designated essential caregiver to agree in writing to follow the policies and procedures, and a facility may suspend in-person visitation for a specific designated essential caregiver if he violates the facility's policies and procedures.

Proposed law requires access to a religious or spiritual support person to be included in addition to the designated essential caregiver and in accordance with present law.

(Amends the heading of Part VI of Chapter 5-G of Title 40 and R.S. 40:1300.51 and 1300.55)