

1 SENATE BILL NO. 308

2 INTRODUCED BY K. BOGNER, J. CARLSON

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING PATIENT VISITATION RIGHTS; PROVIDING
5 THAT PATIENTS IN CARE FACILITIES HAVE A RIGHT TO A MINIMUM OF 2 HOURS OF IN-PERSON
6 VISITATION PER DAY; PROVIDING EXCEPTIONS; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; AND REQUIRING CARE
7 FACILITIES TO NOTIFY PATIENTS OF THEIR VISITATION RIGHTS."

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9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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11 NEW SECTION. Section 1. Short title. [Sections 1 through 4] may be cited as the "Patient Visitation
12 Rights Act".

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14 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Legislative intent. It is the intent of the legislature that:

15 (1) preservation of relationships between a patient and the patient's family members and
16 associates is essential to the health and well-being of the patient; and

17 (2) a patient's need for visitation is a right that may not be superseded by other government
18 objectives, except as provided in [section 4].

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20 NEW SECTION. Section 3. Definitions. As used in [sections 1 through 4], the following definitions
21 apply:

22 (1) "Care facility" means a hospice, hospital, or long-term care facility.

23 (2) "Hospice" has the meaning provided in 50-5-101.

24 (3) "Hospital" means a hospital or critical access hospital as those terms are defined in 50-5-101.

25 (4) "Long-term care facility" has the meaning provided in 50-5-101.

26 (5) "Patient" means an individual receiving services from a care facility.

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