



Sectional Analysis

HB 52 No Patient Left Alone Act

"An Act relating to the right of patients to have a support person present during treatment and during stays at certain facilities; and relating to a requirement that health care facilities make certain information available to the public."

Section 1. Names HB 52 the No Patient Left Alone Act

Section 2. Adds a new section to include rights of patients to support person during treatment of emergency medical services and requires providers of emergency medical services to provide written policies and procedures regarding those rights. Specifically clarifies rights to a support person may not be withheld during a declaration of disaster and may not be terminated.

Section 3. Creates **Article 6. Patient and Resident Right to Support Persons**

- Adds a new section to include rights of patents and residents to a support person while in a hospital, mental health facility, nursing facility, assisted living home, long-term or hospice care and includes a special section for minors' rights in healthcare facilities.
- Adds opportunities for an individual to file a complaint with the commissioner of health for violation of this act and civil liability against a healthcare professional or health care facility.
- Excludes a state agency from taking action against a health care facility for prohibiting a visitor from entering areas typically restricted by a health care facility.
- Requires providers to provide written policies and procedures regarding these rights. These policies must include any restriction on that right and ensure that a support person enjoys full and equal visitation privileges.
- Specifically clarifies rights to a support person may not be terminated, suspended, waived by a healthcare facility or the Department of Health, or withheld during a declaration of disaster and includes definitions.

Section 4. Adds a new section to require health care facilities make a current version of its visitation policies available to the public on the facility Internet website.

Section 5. Amends the duties of the Department of Health to include adopting regulations including a schedule of penalties for violations.