J3, J1 2lr2444

By: Delegates Cox, Arikan, Boteler, Hornberger, and McComas

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2022 Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

2	Hospitals, Related Institutions, and Hospice Facilities - COVID-19 and Other
3	Catastrophic Health Emergencies – Visitation

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a hospital, related institution, or hospice facility from 5 restricting the visitation of a patient's family member or health care agent based on 6 measures related to COVID-19 or another catastrophic health emergency; 7 authorizing the Maryland Department of Health to develop guidelines regarding the 8 use of personal protective equipment by visitors if a patient is actively infected with 9 COVID-19 or any disease constituting a catastrophic health emergency; and generally relating to visitation and hospitals, related institutions, and hospice 10 11 facilities.

12 BY adding to

1

13 Article – Health – General

AN ACT concerning

- Section 6-301 and 6-302 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 3. Visitation in
- 15 Hospitals, Related Institutions, and Hospice Facilities"
- 16 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 17 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)
- 18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
- 19 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:
- 20 Article Health General
- SUBTITLE 3. VISITATION IN HOSPITALS, RELATED INSTITUTIONS, AND HOSPICE FACILITIES.
- 23 **6–301**.
- IN THIS SUBTITLE, "COVID-19" MEANS, INTERCHANGEABLY AND



- 1 COLLECTIVELY, THE CORONAVIRUS KNOWN AS COVID-19 OR 2019-NCOV AND
- 2 THE SARS-COV-2 VIRUS.
- 3 **6–302.**
- 4 (A) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A HOSPITAL
- 5 OR RELATED INSTITUTION, AS DEFINED IN § 19-301 OF THIS ARTICLE, OR A HOSPICE
- 6 FACILITY, AS DEFINED IN § 19-901 OF THIS ARTICLE, MAY NOT RESTRICT THE
- 7 ABILITY OF A PATIENT'S FAMILY MEMBER OR HEALTH CARE AGENT TO VISIT THE
- 8 PATIENT BASED ON MEASURES IMPLEMENTED TO REDUCE THE SPREAD OF
- 9 COVID-19 OR ANY DISEASE THAT CONSTITUTES A CATASTROPHIC HEALTH
- 10 EMERGENCY.
- 11 (B) THE DEPARTMENT MAY DEVELOP GUIDELINES REGARDING THE USE OF
- 12 PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT BY A FAMILY MEMBER OR HEALTH CARE AGENT
- 13 IF THE PATIENT BEING VISITED IS ACTIVELY INFECTED WITH COVID-19 OR ANY
- 14 DISEASE THAT CONSTITUTES A CATASTROPHIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.
- 15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
- 16 October 1, 2022.