
HOUSE BILL 2117

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Representatives Chase, Sutherland, Chambers, Jacobsen, Eslick, and Young

Read first time 02/09/22. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to ensuring a terminally ill patient's right to
2 visitors; adding a new section to chapter 18.51 RCW; adding a new
3 section to chapter 70.41 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 70.127
4 RCW; and adding a new section to chapter 70.129 RCW.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 18.51
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) A terminally ill patient has a right to visitors as provided
9 in this section and a nursing home may not interfere with this right.

10 (a) Visitors must be allowed during normal visiting hours
11 established by the nursing home. During normal visiting hours:

12 (i) A patient may have up to four visitors at a time if the
13 patient is in a private room; and

14 (ii) A patient may have up to two visitors at a time if the
15 patient is in a semi-private room.

16 (b) Outside of visiting hours, a terminally ill patient must be
17 permitted one visitor who must be allowed to remain with the patient.

18 (2) A nursing home may require visitors to wear personal
19 protective equipment that is provided by the nursing home.

20 (3) For purposes of this section:

1 (a) "Terminally ill patient" means a patient with a progressive
2 disease or condition that is expected to end in death.

3 (b) "Visitor" includes a family member of the patient such as a
4 spouse, child, grandchild, sibling, or grandparent.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 70.41
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) A terminally ill patient has a right to visitors as provided
8 in this section and a hospital may not interfere with this right.

9 (a) Visitors must be allowed during normal visiting hours
10 established by the hospital. During normal visiting hours:

11 (i) A patient may have up to four visitors at a time if the
12 patient is in a private room; and

13 (ii) A patient may have up to two visitors at a time if the
14 patient is in a semi-private room.

15 (b) Outside of visiting hours, a terminally ill patient must be
16 permitted one visitor who must be allowed to remain with the patient.

17 (2) A hospital may require visitors to wear personal protective
18 equipment that is provided by the hospital.

19 (3) For purposes of this section:

20 (a) "Terminally ill patient" means a patient with a progressive
21 disease or condition that is expected to end in death.

22 (b) "Visitor" includes a family member of the patient such as a
23 spouse, child, grandchild, sibling, or grandparent.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 70.127
25 RCW to read as follows:

26 (1) A terminally ill patient has a right to visitors as provided
27 in this section and a hospice care center may not interfere with this
28 right.

29 (a) Visitors must be allowed during normal visiting hours
30 established by the hospice care center. During normal visiting hours:

31 (i) A patient may have up to four visitors at a time if the
32 patient is in a private room; and

33 (ii) A patient may have up to two visitors at a time if the
34 patient is in a semi-private room.

35 (b) Outside of visiting hours, a terminally ill patient must be
36 permitted one visitor who must be allowed to remain with the patient.

37 (2) A hospice care center may require visitors to wear personal
38 protective equipment that is provided by the hospice care center.

1 (3) For purposes of this section:

2 (a) "Terminally ill patient" means a patient with a progressive
3 disease or condition that is expected to end in death.

4 (b) "Visitor" includes a family member of the patient such as a
5 spouse, child, grandchild, sibling, or grandparent.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 70.129
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) A terminally ill patient has a right to visitors as provided
9 in this section and a long-term care facility may not interfere with
10 this right.

11 (a) Visitors must be allowed during normal visiting hours
12 established by the long-term care facility. During normal visiting
13 hours:

14 (i) A patient may have up to four visitors at a time if the
15 patient is in a private room; and

16 (ii) A patient may have up to two visitors at a time if the
17 patient is in a semi-private room.

18 (b) Outside of visiting hours, a terminally ill patient must be
19 permitted one visitor who must be allowed to remain with the patient.

20 (2) A long-term care facility may require visitors to wear
21 personal protective equipment that is provided by the long-term care
22 facility.

23 (3) For purposes of this section:

24 (a) "Terminally ill patient" means a patient with a progressive
25 disease or condition that is expected to end in death.

26 (b) "Visitor" includes a family member of the patient such as a
27 spouse, child, grandchild, sibling, or grandparent.

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