

**House File 571 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 571

BY SALMON

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to visitation policies in nursing facilities  
2 and hospitals.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 135B.18B Patient visitation  
2 policies.

3 1. As a condition of licensure under this chapter, a  
4 hospital shall not institute a policy that limits a patient's  
5 ability to receive visitors designated by the patient during  
6 an inpatient stay of twenty-four hours or more, including  
7 during a public health emergency as defined in 42 U.S.C. §247d.  
8 However, a hospital may impose reasonable safety requirements  
9 related to the physical presence of such designated visitors.

10 2. A hospital shall not be held liable for civil damages  
11 in an action involving a liability claim arising out of  
12 a hospital's compliance with this section. The immunity  
13 protection provided under this section shall not limit and is  
14 in addition to any other immunity protections applicable under  
15 state or federal law.

16 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 135C.35A Resident visitation policies  
17 — nursing facilities.

18 1. As a condition of licensure under this chapter, a  
19 nursing facility shall not institute a policy that limits  
20 a resident's ability to receive visitors designated by the  
21 resident, including during a public health emergency as defined  
22 in 42 U.S.C. §247d. However, a nursing facility may impose  
23 reasonable safety requirements related to the physical presence  
24 of such designated visitors.

25 2. A nursing facility shall not be held liable for civil  
26 damages in an action involving a liability claim arising out  
27 of a nursing facility's compliance with this section. The  
28 immunity protection provided under this section shall not limit  
29 and is in addition to any other immunity protections applicable  
30 under state or federal law.

31 EXPLANATION

32 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
33 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

34 This bill relates to hospital patient and nursing facility  
35 resident visitation policies.

1 Under the bill, as a condition of licensure, as applicable,  
2 a hospital or a nursing facility shall not institute any policy  
3 that limits the ability of a patient during an inpatient stay  
4 in a hospital of 24 hours or more or a resident of a nursing  
5 facility to receive visitors designated by the patient or  
6 resident, including during a public health emergency. However,  
7 the bill provides that a hospital or nursing facility may  
8 impose reasonable safety requirements related to the physical  
9 presence of such designated visitors. Under the bill, a  
10 hospital or nursing facility shall not be held liable for civil  
11 damages in an action involving a liability claim arising out of  
12 a hospital's or nursing facility's compliance with the bill.  
13 The immunity protection provided under the bill shall not limit  
14 and is in addition to any other immunity protections applicable  
15 under state or federal law.