

Senate File 537 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 537
BY COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 1196)

A BILL FOR

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

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 As a condition of licensure under this chapter, a hospital
4 shall not institute a policy that limits a patient's ability to
5 receive visitors designated by the patient during an inpatient
6 hospital stay, regardless of the patient's diagnosis. However,
7 a hospital may impose infection control protocols otherwise
8 required that are related to the physical presence of such
9 designated visitors.

10 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 135C.35A Resident visitation policies
11 — nursing facilities.

12 As a condition of licensure under this chapter, a nursing
13 facility shall not institute a policy that limits a resident's
14 ability to receive visitors designated by the resident,
15 regardless of the resident's diagnosis. However, a nursing
16 facility may impose infection control protocols otherwise
17 required that are related to the physical presence of such
18 designated visitors.

19 EXPLANATION

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

22 This bill requires that as a condition of licensure for a
23 hospital or nursing facility, a hospital or nursing facility
24 shall not institute a policy that limits a patient's or
25 resident's ability to receive visitors designated by the
26 patient during an inpatient hospital stay or designated by the
27 resident, regardless of the patient's or resident's diagnosis.
28 However, a hospital or nursing facility may impose infection
29 control protocols otherwise required that are related to the
30 physical presence of such designated visitors.