

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL No. 202

DIGEST OF SB 202 (Updated March 31, 2021 3:54 pm - DI 77)

Citations Affected: IC 16-18; IC 16-21; IC 16-28; IC 34-30.

Synopsis: Hospital and health facility visitation. Allows a patient admitted as a patient to a hospital or ambulatory outpatient surgical center (facility) to receive visitation by specified individuals during a declared emergency, public health emergency, or similar crisis. Requires visitors to comply with applicable disease control or prevention guidelines issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (Continued next page)

Effective: Upon passage.

Rogers, Charbonneau, Leising,

Doriot, Zay, Niemeyer, Becker, Donato, Mishler, Grooms, Yoder, Koch, Raatz, Busch, Gaskill, Houchin, Melton, Tomes

(HOUSE SPONSORS — BARRETT, LEHMAN, MILLER D, WESCO)

January 7, 2021, read first time and referred to Committee on Health and Provider Services.

February 4, 2021, amended, reported favorably — Do Pass. February 8, 2021, read second time, ordered engrossed. Engrossed. February 11, 2021, read third time, passed. Yeas 47, nays 0.

HOUSE ACTION
March 1, 2021, read first time and referred to Committee on Public Health.
April 1, 2021, amended, reported — Do Pass.



Digest Continued

Services or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention when visiting a patient. Requires a facility to permit the visitation of a patient admitted as a patient in a facility during specified compassionate care scenarios. Allows a facility to limit visitation in certain instances. Provides civil immunity for a facility that allows individuals entry in the facility in good faith and in accordance with the protocols. Requires health facilities and residential care facilities (health facilities) to allow visitation of a resident in a compassionate care situation. Requires the state department of health to adopt standards and guidelines concerning the essential family caregiver program during a declared emergency, a public health emergency, or similar crisis, and requires facilities to participate in the program. Allows for the designation of an essential family caregiver for a resident of a health facility and allows for visitation during restricted visitation at the health facility. Specifies requirements for an individual to be designated as an essential family caregiver and allows for the reconsideration and reporting of a denial of a request for designation. Allows the state department of health to adopt certain rules concerning the program. Allows for immunity of a facility participating in the program unless there is gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.



First Regular Session of the 122nd General Assembly (2021)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in this style type, and deletions will appear in this style type.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or *this style type* reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2020 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL No. 202

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning health.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1	SECTION 1. IC 16-18-2-122, AS AMENDED BY P.L.86-2018,
2	SECTION 167, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
3	[EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 122. (a) "Facility", for
4	purposes of IC 16-28-2-12, has the meaning set forth in
5	IC 16-28-2-12(a).
6	(b) "Facility", for purposes of IC 16-28-6.5, has the meaning set
7	forth in IC 16-28-6.5-1.
8	(c) "Facility", for purposes of IC 16-41-11, has the meaning set forth
9	in IC 16-41-11-2.
10	SECTION 2. IC 16-18-2-317.7, AS AMENDED BY P.L.2-2019,
11	SECTION 7, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
12	UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 317.7. "Residential care facility", for purposes
13	of:
14	(1) IC 16-28-2;
15	(2) IC 16-28-6.5; and
16	(3) IC 16-32-5;
17	means an entity licensed under IC 16-28 and registered as a housing



1	with services establishment under IC 12-10-15.
2	SECTION 3. IC 16-21-2-15.7 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
3	CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
4	[EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 15.7. (a) As used in this
5	section, "facility" includes the following:
6	(1) A hospital licensed under this article.
7	(2) A freestanding rehabilitation hospital.
8	(3) A private psychiatric hospital licensed under IC 12-25.
9	(4) An ambulatory outpatient surgical center licensed under
10	this article.
11	(b) Subject to subsections (c), (d), and (f), a facility shall allow
12	visitation to a patient who has been admitted as a patient during a
13	disaster emergency declared under IC 10-14-3-12, a public health
14	emergency, or a similar crisis from one (1) or more of the following
15	individuals:
16	(1) A patient's family member.
17	(2) A patient's legal representative.
18	(3) The patient's designee.
19	(4) A member of the clergy.
20	(5) An essential caregiver.
21	(6) Any other individual capable of meeting the patient's
22	needs.
23	(c) Subject to subsection (d), a person described in subsection
24	(b) shall be permitted to daily visit a person who is admitted as a
25	patient without regard for any visitation restrictions imposed by
26	the facility during a compassionate care situation that involves one
27	(1) or more of the following scenarios:
28	(1) An end of life situation, including hospice.
29	(2) A patient who is experiencing weight loss or dehydration
30	and is in need of cuing or encouragement for eating or
31	drinking.
32	(3) A patient who is experiencing emotional distress,
33	depression, or grief.
34	(4) A patient who is diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease,
35	dementia, or a related cognitive disorder.
36	(5) The patient is experiencing an acute health situation that
37	requires immediate attention.
38	(6) The patient is undergoing surgery with general anesthesia.
39	(7) The patient is experiencing a sudden deterioration in the
40	patient's medical condition.
41	(8) The patient is unable to provide or does not know

pertinent and critical medical information that would aid the



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1	health care professional in treating the patient.
2	(9) The patient is a minor.
3	(d) A person who is described in subsection (b) or who visits a
4	patient admitted as a patient for a reason specified in subsection (c)
5	must comply with the following:
6	(1) Applicable guidelines concerning disease control or
7	prevention as determined by the Centers for Medicare and
8	Medicaid Services or the Centers for Disease Control and
9	Prevention.
10	(2) Any facility requirements to undergo screening or to
11	complete testing before visiting a patient admitted as a
12	patient. If a screening protocol or test result prohibits a
13	person from visiting the patient, another individual capable
14	of successfully completing or passing the applicable screening
15	protocol or test may be selected for visitation by the patient.
16	(3) Limitations that an individual granted access under the
17	protocols of this section may not access any area other than
18	the patient's room or area designated or permitted by the
19	facility.
20	(e) The facility may specify any requirement that the facility will
21	implement for the individual who is granted access to the facility,
22	including the following:
23	(1) Screening.
24	(2) Personal protective equipment requirements and
25	instructions on the proper use of the equipment.
26	(3) Restrictions when entering patient rooms.
27	(4) Disclosure of any risks associated with the individual's
28	entry onto the premises, including risks during an epidemic or
29	when a communicable disease is involved.
30	(5) Written acknowledgment from the individual entering the
31	premises that the individual:
32	(A) will follow the established protocols;
33	(B) holds the facility, its employees, and health care
34	providers harmless for being allowed to enter the facility;
35	and
36	(C) received and acknowledges the disclosure of the risks
37	described in subdivision (4).
38	(f) Nothing in this section may be construed to prevent a facility
39	from limiting the number of designated individuals that a person
40	admitted as a patient may see if the limitations are explicitly
41	required under a disaster emergency or public health emergency



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declaration.

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1	(g) A facility, its employees, and contractors that in good faith
2	implement protocols in compliance with this section are not civilly
3	liable for an individual being allowed to enter the facility under the
4	protocols unless the action constitutes gross negligence or willful
5	or wanton misconduct.
6	SECTION 4. IC 16-28-2-12 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
7	AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
8	UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 12. (a) As used in this section, "facility"
9	includes the following:
10	(1) A health facility licensed under this article.
11	(2) A residential care facility.
12	(b) During a declared emergency, public health emergency, or
13	similar crisis, a facility shall allow, in accordance with guidelines
14	from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, visitation of
15	a resident by the resident's family member, legal representative,
16	clergy, or essential family caregiver (as determined in
17	IC 16-28-6.5), or an individual who can meet the resident's needs,
18	regardless of visitation restrictions implemented by the facility, in
19	compassionate care situations, including the following:
20	(1) End of life situations.
21	(2) A recently admitted resident who is struggling to adapt to
22	the facility and the lack of family support.
23	(3) A resident who is grieving the recent death of a family
24	member or friend.
25	(4) A resident who is experiencing weight loss or dehydration

- (4) A resident who is experiencing weight loss or dehydration and is in need of cuing and encouragement for eating or drinking that was previously provided to the resident by a family member or caregiver.
- (5) A resident who is experiencing emotional distress and is not talking or interacting with others as the resident previously had.
- (6) A resident who is diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, dementia, or a related cognitive disorder, and is experiencing distress due to a lack of visitation.
- (7) A resident who is failing to thrive.
- (c) A facility has the burden of proof in justifying the facility's decision to deny visitation for a resident's family member, legal representative, or essential family caregiver in a compassionate care situation under this section.

SECTION 5. IC 16-28-6.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE]:



Chapter 6.5. Essential Family Caregiver Program

Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "facility" includes the following:

- (1) A health facility licensed under this article.
- (2) A residential care facility.

- Sec. 2. The state department shall adopt standards and guidelines concerning the essential family caregiver program to be implemented during a declared emergency, a public health emergency, or similar crisis for the purpose of establishing protocols for a facility to designate a person chosen by a resident or a resident's designated representative to assist the facility in providing care to the resident that was previously provided by the person before restrictions were placed on visitation due to a declared emergency, a public health emergency, or similar crisis when visitation is limited or restricted. Either:
 - (1) the resident; or
 - (2) if the individual has been deemed to be incapacitated or is a resident of a memory care unit, the resident's designated representative;

shall make the determination. The facility shall allow at least two (2) individuals per resident to be designated, and the resident or the resident's designated representative shall determine the identity of the primary essential family caregiver to serve as the resident's main point of contact for communication and care coordination.

- Sec. 3. (a) A facility shall participate in the essential family caregiver program established and maintained by the state department under section 2 of this chapter.
- (b) A facility shall inform residents of the facility and a resident's designated representative of the essential family caregiver program and the process for being designated as a resident's essential family caregiver. The facility's requirements concerning participation in the program and applying for the designation must be in writing.
- (c) The administrator of a facility, or the administrator's designee, shall have the discretion to determine whether to designate a person to be an essential family caregiver for a resident. The facility has the burden of proof in justifying the facility's decision to deny the designation for a person that applies to be an essential family caregiver for a resident under this chapter. If a health facility denies the designation of a person as an essential family caregiver, the health facility must provide the denial to the person in writing with an explanation of the reason



1	for the denial.
2	(d) The administrator of a facility or the administrator's
3	designee shall:
4	(1) factor in the current status of the facility concerning the
5	declared emergency, public health emergency, or similar
6	crisis in determining whether to designate an individual as an
7	essential family caregiver for a resident; and
8	(2) determine, not later than seven (7) days after receipt of the
9	application, and in consultation with staff of the facility who
10	provide care to the resident, each designation on a case by
11	case basis and as part of an individualized care plan for a
12	resident.
13	(e) If an applicant is denied designation as an essential family
14	caregiver by the administrator, the applicant may request in
15	writing that the administrator reconsider designating the applicant
16	as an essential family caregiver. An individual whose application
17	is still denied after reconsideration may report the denial in writing
18	to the state department or the long term care ombudsman if the
19	individual believes that the denial is in violation of this chapter.
20	Sec. 4. To be designated as an essential family caregiver of a
21	resident, an individual must at least meet the following:
22	(1) Is at least eighteen (18) years of age.
23	(2) Either:
24	(A) before the declared emergency, public health
25	emergency, or similar crisis that resulted in the placement
26	of visitation restrictions, regularly engaged with the
27	resident on average at least two (2) times per week to
28	provide care or support to the resident, including help with
29	meal set up, grooming, and companionship; or
30	(B) if the resident is a new resident to the facility during a
31	declared emergency, public health emergency, or similar
32	crisis, previously provided care to the resident.
33	(3) Has taken and passed any screening test or other testing
34	required for the declared emergency, public health
35	emergency, or similar crisis, and agrees to continue to take
36	any required testing throughout the emergency or crisis when
37	requested.
38	(4) Agrees to take any precautionary measures, including
39	hand hygiene and the wearing of a mask or other personal
40	protective equipment required by the facility.
41	(5) Agrees to only enter the resident's room and designated



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areas of the facility.

1	Sec. 5. A resident or a resident's designated representative must
2	agree to a designation of an individual as the resident's essential
3	family caregiver before the designation may occur. The resident or
4	resident's designated representative may revoke the agreement
5	concerning a designated essential family caregiver at any time.
6	Sec. 6. (a) If a facility designates an individual as an essential
7	family caregiver for a resident, the following must occur:
8	(1) The facility must set forth in writing the hours of visitation
9	and the length of time of the visitation.
10	(2) The facility shall provide a written list of the rules that the
11	designee must follow, and the designee shall attest to the
12	receipt of and agreement to the rules.
13	(3) An individualized plan shall be developed by the facility,
14	resident, resident's designated representative, and each
15	designee for each designation that:
16	(A) specifies the responsibilities of all parties;
17	(B) is maintained in the resident's file;
18	(C) is provided to both the resident and the designated
19	essential family caregiver;
20	(D) is developed for both in-person outdoor and indoor
21	visitation, and virtual visits when the essential caregiver is
22	unable or prohibited from entry due to illness; and
23	(E) reflects the preferences of the resident and the essential
24	family caregiver while adhering to all state and federal
25	guidelines concerning visitation.
26	(b) A facility and essential family caregiver shall work together
27	to ensure reasonable visitation times are set in a manner that
28	provides an essential family caregiver the ability to visit the
29	resident.
30	(c) Upon request of the resident, the resident's designated
31	representative, the resident's family, or the resident's legal
32	representative, the facility shall provide a copy of the individual's
33	plan described in this section to the long term care ombudsman.
34	Sec. 7. A facility may restrict an established plan of visitation by
35	an essential family caregiver for any of the following:
36	(1) The essential family caregiver's violation of the rules set
37	forth in the individualized plan established under section 6 of
38	this chapter.
39	(2) The essential family caregiver's positive screening test for
40	a length of time, as established by federal or state guidelines.
41	Sec. 8. (a) If a facility is unable to comply with this chapter or
42	any requirements for the program established by the state



l	department, the facility shall notify the state department of the
2	reason the facility may not comply with the program and what the
3	facility needs in order to comply with the program.
1	(b) The state department may take enforcement action against
5	a facility as determined by rules adopted under section 9 of this
6	chapter.
7	Sec. 9. The state department may adopt rules under IC 4-22-2
3	concerning the essential family caregiver program, including:

- (1) the oversight and enforcement of the essential family caregiver program;
- (2) the establishment of requirements for plans for correction for a violation by a facility under this chapter; and
- (3) reporting of the participation in the essential family care giver program, compassionate care program, and general visitation.

Sec. 10. (a) Subject to subsection (b), a facility, facility employee, or facility contractor that, in good faith, implements or complies with this chapter may not be held civilly liable for damages, including punitive damages, for any act or omission related to the implementation of this chapter.

(b) The immunity described in subsection (a) does not apply to any act or omission that constitutes gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.

SECTION 6. IC 34-30-2-66.1 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE]: **Sec. 66.1. IC 16-21-2-15.7** (Concerning facility protocols on admittance of visitors into the facility).

SECTION 7. IC 34-30-2-66.8 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE]: **Sec. 66.8. IC 16-28-6.5-10** (Concerning implementation of or compliance with the essential family caregiver program).

SECTION 8. An emergency is declared for this act.



COMMITTEE REPORT

Madam President: The Senate Committee on Health and Provider Services, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 202, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the Senate with the recommendation that said bill be AMENDED as follows:

- Page 2, line 11, after "representative," insert "clergy,".
- Page 2, line 12, delete "caregiver," and insert "caregiver (as determined in IC 16-28-6.5), or an individual who can meet the resident's needs,".
- Page 2, between lines 26 and 27, begin a new line block indented and insert:
 - "(6) A resident who is diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, dementia, or a related cognitive disorder, and is experiencing distress due to a lack of visitation.
 - (7) A resident who is failing to thrive.".
- Page 2, line 38, delete "administer" and insert "adopt standards and guidelines concerning".
- Page 3, line 13, delete "." and insert "to serve as the resident's main point of contact for communication and care coordination.".
- Page 3, line 29, after "chapter." insert "If a health facility denies the designation of a person as an essential family caregiver, the health facility must provide the denial to the person in writing with an explanation of the reason for the denial.".
- Page 3, line 36, after "determine" insert ", not later than seven (7) days after receipt of the application, and in consultation with staff of the facility who provide care to the resident,".
 - Page 3, between lines 37 and 38, begin a new paragraph and insert:
- "(e) If an applicant is denied designation as an essential family caregiver by the administrator, the applicant may request in writing that the administrator reconsider designating the applicant as an essential family caregiver. An individual whose application is still denied after reconsideration may report the denial in writing to the state department or the long term care ombudsman if the individual believes that the denial is in violation of this chapter.".
 - Page 3, line 41, delete "Before" and insert "Either:
 - (A) before".
 - Page 4, line 1, after "resident" insert "on average".
 - Page 4, line 4, delete "." and insert "; or
 - (B) if the resident is a new resident to the facility during a declared emergency, public health emergency, or similar



crisis, previously provided care to the resident.".

Page 5, line 6, after "restrict" insert "an".

Page 5, line 6, after "plan" insert "of".

and when so amended that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to SB 202 as introduced.)

CHARBONNEAU, Chairperson

Committee Vote: Yeas 12, Nays 0.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Your Committee on Public Health, to which was referred Senate Bill 202, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that said bill be amended as follows:

Page 2, between lines 1 and 2, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"SECTION 3. IC 16-21-2-15.7 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE]: **Sec. 15.7.** (a) As used in this section, "facility" includes the following:

- (1) A hospital licensed under this article.
- (2) A freestanding rehabilitation hospital.
- (3) A private psychiatric hospital licensed under IC 12-25.
- (4) An ambulatory outpatient surgical center licensed under this article.
- (b) Subject to subsections (c), (d), and (f), a facility shall allow visitation to a patient who has been admitted as a patient during a disaster emergency declared under IC 10-14-3-12, a public health emergency, or a similar crisis from one (1) or more of the following individuals:
 - (1) A patient's family member.
 - (2) A patient's legal representative.
 - (3) The patient's designee.
 - (4) A member of the clergy.
 - (5) An essential caregiver.
 - (6) Any other individual capable of meeting the patient's needs.
- (c) Subject to subsection (d), a person described in subsection (b) shall be permitted to daily visit a person who is admitted as a



patient without regard for any visitation restrictions imposed by the facility during a compassionate care situation that involves one (1) or more of the following scenarios:

- (1) An end of life situation, including hospice.
- (2) A patient who is experiencing weight loss or dehydration and is in need of cuing or encouragement for eating or drinking.
- (3) A patient who is experiencing emotional distress, depression, or grief.
- (4) A patient who is diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, dementia, or a related cognitive disorder.
- (5) The patient is experiencing an acute health situation that requires immediate attention.
- (6) The patient is undergoing surgery with general anesthesia.
- (7) The patient is experiencing a sudden deterioration in the patient's medical condition.
- (8) The patient is unable to provide or does not know pertinent and critical medical information that would aid the health care professional in treating the patient.
- (9) The patient is a minor.
- (d) A person who is described in subsection (b) or who visits a patient admitted as a patient for a reason specified in subsection (c) must comply with the following:
 - (1) Applicable guidelines concerning disease control or prevention as determined by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
 - (2) Any facility requirements to undergo screening or to complete testing before visiting a patient admitted as a patient. If a screening protocol or test result prohibits a person from visiting the patient, another individual capable of successfully completing or passing the applicable screening protocol or test may be selected for visitation by the patient.
 - (3) Limitations that an individual granted access under the protocols of this section may not access any area other than the patient's room or area designated or permitted by the facility.
- (e) The facility may specify any requirement that the facility will implement for the individual who is granted access to the facility, including the following:
 - (1) Screening.
 - (2) Personal protective equipment requirements and



instructions on the proper use of the equipment.

- (3) Restrictions when entering patient rooms.
- (4) Disclosure of any risks associated with the individual's entry onto the premises, including risks during an epidemic or when a communicable disease is involved.
- (5) Written acknowledgment from the individual entering the premises that the individual:
 - (A) will follow the established protocols;
 - (B) holds the facility, its employees, and health care providers harmless for being allowed to enter the facility; and
 - (C) received and acknowledges the disclosure of the risks described in subdivision (4).
- (f) Nothing in this section may be construed to prevent a facility from limiting the number of designated individuals that a person admitted as a patient may see if the limitations are explicitly required under a disaster emergency or public health emergency declaration.
- (g) A facility, its employees, and contractors that in good faith implement protocols in compliance with this section are not civilly liable for an individual being allowed to enter the facility under the protocols unless the action constitutes gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct."

Page 6, between lines 19 and 20, begin a new paragraph and insert: "SECTION 6. IC 34-30-2-66.1 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE]: **Sec. 66.1. IC 16-21-2-15.7** (Concerning facility protocols on admittance of visitors into the facility)."

Renumber all SECTIONS consecutively.

and when so amended that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to SB 202 as printed February 5, 2021.)

BARRETT

Committee Vote: yeas 11, nays 0.

