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Substitute Bill Comparative Synopsis

Sub. H.B. 324

134th General Assembly

House Health

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This table summarizes how the latest substitute version of the bill differs from the immediately preceding version. It addresses only the topics on which the two versions differ substantively. It does not list topics on which the two bills are substantively the same.

Previous Version (As Pending in H Health I_134_1004-3)	Latest Version (I_134_1004-5)
Hospital visitation	
<p>In the absence of a public health order to the contrary, requires hospitals to permit in-person visitation of patients in the following circumstances: (1) during a public health emergency related to the spread of a contagious disease or (2) at any time when a contagious disease is unusually prevalent (<i>R.C. 3727.30(A)</i>).</p> <p>Requires that visits by the patient’s family, caretakers, or clergy persons be permitted to the same extent as before the emergency was declared or the disease prevalence increased (<i>R.C. 3727.30(A)</i>).</p>	<p>Similar, but removes the qualification that the visits are required in the absence of a public health order to the contrary (<i>R.C. 3727.30(A)</i>).</p> <p>Requires the hospital to make reasonable efforts to conduct visitation in conformity with its guidelines in effect before the emergency was declared or disease prevalence increased (<i>R.C. 3727.30(A)</i>).</p>

Previous Version (As Pending in H Health I_134_1004-3)	Latest Version (I_134_1004-5)
<p>Requires the visitation to be conducted in such a way so as not to endanger the health of hospital patients or staff or other individuals in the hospital facility (R.C. 3727.30(A)).</p> <p>Requires a hospital's policy for the visits to provide maximum access to patients, including by offering evening and weekend visits (R.C. 3727.30(E)).</p>	<p>Requires the visits to be conducted in such a way to protect the health of hospital patients, staff, and other individuals in the hospital facility (R.C. 3727.30(A)).</p> <p>No provision.</p>
Public health orders	
<p>Prohibits a public health order issued by the Director of Health or a local board of health to control the spread of contagious disease from preventing reasonable visitation of a patient by the patient's immediate family members (which includes the patient's parents, children, and siblings), attorneys in fact, or other individuals designated by the patient in the patient's care plan if the patient's condition becomes terminal (R.C. 3727.30(B)).</p>	<p>Instead, prohibits such an order from preventing reasonable visitation of the patient by the patient's family (which includes persons related to the patient by consanguinity or affinity), caregivers, companions, or clergy persons if the patient's condition becomes terminal (R.C. 3727.30(B)).</p>
Designating visitors	
<p>Permits the patient, or a person authorized to make decisions on the patient's behalf, to designate visitors authorized to visit the patient, including immediate family members (which include the patient's parents, children, and siblings), attorneys in fact, personal representatives, caretakers, clergy, and other individuals providing care or companionship to the patient (R.C. 3727.30(D)).</p>	<p>Instead, specifies that the designated visitors may include the patient's family members (which includes persons related to the patient by consanguinity or affinity), caregivers, companions, and clergy persons (R.C. 3727.30(D)).</p>
Precautionary measures	
<p>Permits a hospital to take certain precautionary measures during the emergency or increased prevalence of contagious disease, including:</p>	

Previous Version (As Pending in H Health I_134_1004-3)	Latest Version (I_134_1004-5)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Requiring screening of visitors for symptoms of the disease before the visitor enters the hospital, in the same manner as for hospital staff and volunteers (<i>R.C. 3727.30(C)(1)</i>). ▪ Limiting the number of visitors seeing a patient at one time, but prohibits a hospital from limiting a patient to only one designated visitor (<i>R.C. 3727.30(C)(6)</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Removes the requirement that the screening be in the same manner as for hospital staff and volunteers (<i>R.C. 3727.30(C)(1)</i>). ▪ Additionally specifies that a hospital cannot count a clergy person towards any limit on the number of visitors permitted to see a patient at one time, and must permit a clergy person to visit in addition to the permitted number of visitors (<i>R.C. 3727.30(C)(6)</i>).
Personal protective equipment – waiver	
<p>In the event of a lack of personal protective equipment, permits a hospital to seek a waiver from the Department of Health if it requires visitors to wear personal protective equipment (<i>R.C. 3727.30(C)(4)</i>).</p>	<p>No provision.</p>
<p>Requires the Director of Health to approve or deny a waiver request (<i>R.C. 3701.042</i>).</p>	<p>No provision.</p>