

**BILL SUMMARY**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the 58<sup>th</sup> Legislature

<b>Bill No.:</b>	<b>SB1259</b>
<b>Version:</b>	<b>CS</b>
<b>Request Number:</b>	<b>11360</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Rep. Roe</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>4/19/2022</b>
<b>Impact:</b>	<b>Please see previous summary of this measure</b>

**Research Analysis**

The committee substitute (CS) to SB 1259 clarifies the applicability of this act to specify that a minor patient has the right to have a parent, guardian or person standing in loco parentis to have the ability to be physically present while the minor is receiving hospital care. The CS also specifies that patients hospitalized with Covid-19 have the right to designate a spouse, or at least one family member or caregiver to have the ability to be physically present while the adult patient is receiving hospital care.

The CS provides that each minor or adult admitted for labor and delivery to a licensed hospital has the right to have a midwife, doula, or birth coach present while receiving hospital care. The measure clarifies that a diagnosis of Covid-19 alone will not constitute a medical or therapeutic cause for visitation rights to be removed. Hospitals are authorized to enact policies establishing reasonable visitation hours; provided, the policies allow for a compassionate exemption process for twenty-four-hour visitation in end-of-life scenarios.

A midwife, doula, or birth coach under a contract directly with a patient admitted for labor and delivery will not be subject to the same required policies of an employee or contractor of the hospital. The CS modifies a provision related to actions against hospitals. The measure provides the criteria for civil action against a hospital and declares an emergency.

Prepared By: Dan Brooks

**Fiscal Analysis**

The measure is currently under review and impact information will be completed.

Prepared By: Mark Tygret

**Other Considerations**

None.