

BILL SUMMARY
2nd Session of the 58th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB1259
Version:	PCS1
Request Number:	11330
Author:	Rep. Roe
Date:	4/13/2022
Impact:	Please see previous summary of this measure

Research Analysis

The proposed committee substitute (PCS1) 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. PCS1 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.

PCS1 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. PCS1 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.