

HOUSE BILL NO. 252

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES VANCE, Tilton, Rasmussen, Carpenter, Eastman, Kaufman

Introduced: 1/7/22
Referred: Prefiled

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to the right of patients to have a support person present during**
2 **treatment and during stays at certain facilities."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * **Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section
5 to read:

6 SHORT TITLE. This Act may be known as the No Patient Left Alone Act.

7 * **Sec. 2.** AS 18.08 is amended by adding a new section to read:

8 **Sec. 18.08.093. Right of patients to support person.** (a) A provider of
9 emergency medical services who treats a patient shall allow a support person of the
10 patient's choice to be present during treatment. The support person may be any
11 individual and is not required to be the patient's surrogate under AS 13.52.030.

12 (b) A provider of emergency medical services shall have written policies and
13 procedures regarding a patient's right to have a support person present during
14 treatment, including provisions describing any clinically necessary or reasonable

1 restriction the provider may place on access to the patient and the reason for the
 2 restriction. A provider of emergency medical services shall inform each patient or
 3 support person, as appropriate, of the patient's right to have a support person present,
 4 including any restriction on that right, and shall ensure that a support person enjoys
 5 full and equal visitation privileges consistent with patient preferences and the policies
 6 and procedures.

7 (c) A patient's right to a support person under this section may not be withheld
 8 based on a state or federal declaration of disaster.

9 * **Sec. 3.** AS 18.20 is amended by adding a new section to read:

10 **Article 6. Right of Patients to Support Person While in Hospital, Nursing Facility,**
 11 **Assisted Living Home, or Hospice Care.**

12 **Sec. 18.20.600. Right of patients to support person.** (a) A hospital, nursing
 13 facility, assisted living home, or hospice provider shall allow a support person of the
 14 patient's choice to be present during the patient's stay. The support person may be any
 15 individual and is not required to be the patient's surrogate under AS 13.52.030.

16 (b) A hospital, nursing facility, assisted living home, or hospice provider shall
 17 have written policies and procedures regarding a patient's right to have a support
 18 person present during the patient's stay, including provisions describing any clinically
 19 necessary or reasonable restriction the hospital, nursing facility, assisted living home,
 20 or hospice provider may place on access to the patient and the reason for the
 21 restriction. A hospital, nursing facility, assisted living home, or hospice provider shall
 22 inform each patient or support person, as appropriate, of the patient's right to have a
 23 support person present, including any restriction on that right, and shall ensure that a
 24 support person enjoys full and equal visitation privileges consistent with patient
 25 preferences and the policies and procedures.

26 (c) A patient's right to a support person under this section may not be withheld
 27 based on a state or federal declaration of disaster.

28 (d) In this section,

- 29 (1) "assisted living home" has the meaning given in AS 47.32.900;
 30 (2) "hospice" has the meaning given in AS 47.32.900;
 31 (3) "hospital" has the meaning given in AS 18.20.130;

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(4) "nursing facility" has the meaning given in AS 18.20.390.