

HOUSE BILL 1379

J3, J1

2lr2444

By: **Delegates Cox, Arikan, Boteler, Hornberger, and McComas**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2022

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Hospitals, Related Institutions, and Hospice Facilities – COVID–19 and Other**
3 **Catastrophic Health Emergencies – Visitation**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a hospital, related institution, or hospice facility from
5 restricting the visitation of a patient’s family member or health care agent based on
6 measures related to COVID–19 or another catastrophic health emergency;
7 authorizing the Maryland Department of Health to develop guidelines regarding the
8 use of personal protective equipment by visitors if a patient is actively infected with
9 COVID–19 or any disease constituting a catastrophic health emergency; and
10 generally relating to visitation and hospitals, related institutions, and hospice
11 facilities.

12 BY adding to

13 Article – Health – General

14 Section 6–301 and 6–302 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 3. Visitation in
15 Hospitals, Related Institutions, and Hospice Facilities”

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
19 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article – Health – General**

21 **SUBTITLE 3. VISITATION IN HOSPITALS, RELATED INSTITUTIONS, AND HOSPICE**
22 **FACILITIES.**

23 **6–301.**

24 **IN THIS SUBTITLE, “COVID–19” MEANS, INTERCHANGEABLY AND**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 COLLECTIVELY, THE CORONAVIRUS KNOWN AS COVID-19 OR 2019-NCOV AND
2 THE SARS-CoV-2 VIRUS.

3 **6-302.**

4 (A) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A HOSPITAL
5 OR RELATED INSTITUTION, AS DEFINED IN § 19-301 OF THIS ARTICLE, OR A HOSPICE
6 FACILITY, AS DEFINED IN § 19-901 OF THIS ARTICLE, MAY NOT RESTRICT THE
7 ABILITY OF A PATIENT'S FAMILY MEMBER OR HEALTH CARE AGENT TO VISIT THE
8 PATIENT BASED ON MEASURES IMPLEMENTED TO REDUCE THE SPREAD OF
9 COVID-19 OR ANY DISEASE THAT CONSTITUTES A CATASTROPHIC HEALTH
10 EMERGENCY.

11 (B) THE DEPARTMENT MAY DEVELOP GUIDELINES REGARDING THE USE OF
12 PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT BY A FAMILY MEMBER OR HEALTH CARE AGENT
13 IF THE PATIENT BEING VISITED IS ACTIVELY INFECTED WITH COVID-19 OR ANY
14 DISEASE THAT CONSTITUTES A CATASTROPHIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
16 October 1, 2022.