

HOUSE BILL 9068

By Hulseby

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2; Title 4; Title 5; Title 6; Title 7; Title 8; Title 9; Title 29; Title 33; Title 37; Title 49; Title 50; Title 56; Title 58; Title 63; Title 68 and Title 71, relative to COVID-19.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 11, Part 2, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "COVID-19" means the novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, and coronavirus disease 2019, including a mutation of the novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, and coronavirus disease 2019;

(2) "Family member" means a spouse, parent, grandparent, stepmother, stepfather, child, grandchild, brother, sister, half-brother, half-sister, adopted child, or spouse's parent; and

(3) "Hospital" has the same meaning as defined in § 68-11-201.

(b) Notwithstanding a law to the contrary, during a period in which a disaster, emergency, or public health emergency for COVID-19 has been declared, a hospital shall not restrict a patient from having at least one (1) family member present with the patient during the stay in the hospital as long as the family member tests negative for COVID-19 and is not exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 or another virus or communicable disease.

SECTION 2. The department of health is authorized to promulgate rules, including emergency rules, to effectuate this act. The rules must be promulgated in accordance with the

Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4,
Chapter 5.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.