

# Senate Bill 674

Sponsored by Senator HEARD (Presession filed.)

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Requires Oregon Health Authority to investigate best practices and latest technology and to establish hospital procedures to enable family members to visit hospitalized patients during pandemic.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to hospital visitation during a pandemic; and declaring an emergency.

Whereas in the wake of COVID-19, family members who were hospitalized were kept in isolation and some never returned home or saw a loved one again; and

Whereas being unable to see a loved one who is hospitalized or near death compounds the family's tragedy; and

Whereas if Oregonians have the right to die with dignity, then Oregonians should also have the right to never die alone; now, therefore,

**Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

**SECTION 1. (1) The Oregon Health Authority shall investigate best practices in the hospital industry and the latest sanitation technology available to enable family members to visit patients who are hospitalized for treatment of an infectious disease or who are hospitalized during a pandemic for reasons other than treatment of an infectious disease. Based on the investigation, the authority shall establish procedures for hospitals licensed in this state to permit members of a patient's immediate family to safely visit the patient in the hospital during a pandemic.**

**(2) The procedures developed under subsection (1) of this section may not impose unreasonable burdens on hospital staff or family members and may include a requirement for quarantine before or after a visit.**

**SECTION 2. No later than September 15, 2022, the Oregon Health Authority shall report the findings of its investigation and the procedures established under section 1 of this 2021 Act, in the manner provided in ORS 192.245, to the Joint Special Committee on Coronavirus Response or the interim committee of the Senate related to health care, whichever committee is in existence on the date of the report.**

**SECTION 3. This 2021 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2021 Act takes effect on its passage.**

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.