

ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Fifty-fifth Legislature First Regular Session House: HHS DPA 8-1-0-0

HB 2575: hospitals; visitation Sponsor: Representative Nguyen, LD 1 House Engrossed

<u>Overview</u>

An emergency measure that requires a hospital's visitation policy to facilitate the ability of clergy to visit patients for religious purposes, including during a pandemic.

<u>History</u>

An accredited hospital is a hospital that is currently accredited by a nationally recognized organization on hospital accreditation (A.R.S. § 36-401).

Statute delineates certain patient civil and legal rights regarding mental health services. Every person detained for evaluation or treatment has the right to be visited by the person's personal physician or other health care professional, guardian, agent, attorney, clergyman or any other person, subject to reasonable limitations as the person in charge of the agency may direct (A.R.S. § 36-514).

Provisions

- 1. Requires a hospital's visitation policy to facilitate the ability of clergy to visit patients for religious purposes, including during a pandemic. (Sec. 1)
- 2. States that in an end-of-life situation, a hospital must facilitate in-person clergy visitation regardless of the time of day. (Sec. 1)
- 3. Stipulates clergy must comply with reasonable health and safety precautions imposed by hospitals in connection with clergy visitation. (Sec. 1)
- 4. Maintains *clergy visitation* or *visit* includes a virtual visit using communication technology. (Sec. 1)
- 5. Contains an emergency clause. (Sec. 2)

□ Prop 105 (45 votes) □ Prop 108 (40 votes) □ Emergency (40 votes) □ Fiscal Note