

By: Senator(s) McDaniel

To: Public Health and
Welfare

SENATE BILL NO. 2417

1 AN ACT CREATING THE "NO PATIENT LEFT ALONE ACT"; PROVIDING
2 FOR MINOR AND ADULT PATIENTS TO DESIGNATE A VISITOR WITH
3 UNRESTRICTED VISITATION; PROHIBITING TERMINATION, SUSPENSION OR
4 WAIVER OF VISITATION RIGHTS BY CERTAIN PARTIES; PROVIDING CERTAIN
5 LIMITATIONS; PROHIBITING HOSPITALS FROM REQUIRING PATIENT WAIVER
6 OF CERTAIN RIGHTS; REQUIRING POSTING OF CERTAIN INFORMATIONAL
7 MATERIALS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

9 **SECTION 1.** (1) Subject to the provisions of subsection (4)
10 of this section, each minor who is admitted to a hospital licensed
11 pursuant to Section 41-9-7 et seq., Mississippi Code of 1972, has
12 the right to have a parent, guardian or person standing in loco
13 parentis who shall have the unrestricted privilege of being
14 present while the minor patient is receiving hospital care.

15 (2) Subject to the provisions of subsection (4) of this
16 section, each adult who is admitted to a hospital licensed
17 pursuant to Section 41-9-7 et seq., Mississippi Code of 1972, has
18 the right to designate a spouse, family member or friend who shall
19 have the unrestricted privilege of being present while the adult
20 patient is receiving hospital care.



21 (3) The rights specified in this section may not be
22 terminated, suspended, or waived by the hospital, the State
23 Department of Health, or any governmental entity, notwithstanding
24 declarations of emergency declared by the Governor.

25 (4) Hospitals may require visitors to wear personal
26 protective equipment, provided that any such required equipment
27 shall be provided by the hospital. Nothing in this section shall
28 be construed to require a hospital to allow a visitor to enter an
29 operating room or other typically restricted area or to remain
30 present during the administration of emergency care in critical
31 situations.

32 (5) No hospital licensed pursuant to Section 41-9-7 et seq.,
33 Mississippi Code of 1972, shall require a patient to waive the
34 rights specified in this section.

35 (6) Each hospital licensed pursuant to Section 41-9-7 et
36 seq., Mississippi Code of 1972, shall post in a conspicuous place
37 on the licensed premises informational materials developed by the
38 State Department of Health explaining the rights specified in this
39 section.

40 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
41 and after July 1, 2022.

