



1997 ASSEMBLY BILL 397

May 27, 1997 - Introduced by Representatives JENSEN and KRUG. Referred to Committee on Health.

1 **AN ACT to create** 146.95 of the statutes; **relating to:** hospital visitation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Currently, visitation policies at an inpatient health care facility are set by the inpatient health care facility. This bill allows a patient at an inpatient health care facility to identify to a health care provider at an inpatient health care facility those persons with whom the patient wishes to visit while the patient is a patient at the inpatient health care facility. The bill prohibits, with certain exceptions, an inpatient health care facility from denying visitation privileges during the facility's regular visiting hours to any person whom the patient identifies.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

2 **SECTION 1.** 146.95 of the statutes is created to read:

3 **146.95 Patient visitation. (1) DEFINITIONS.** In this section:

4 (a) "Health care provider" has the meaning given in s. 155.01 (7)

5 (b) "Inpatient health care facility" has the meaning given in s. 252.14 (1) (d).

6 **(2) PATIENT-DESIGNATED VISITORS.** (a) Any individual may identify to a health
7 care provider at an inpatient health care facility at any time, either orally or in

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1 writing, those persons with whom the individual wishes to visit while the individual
2 is a patient at the inpatient health care facility. Except as provided in par. (b), no
3 inpatient health care facility may deny visitation during the inpatient health care
4 facility's regular visiting hours to any person identified by the individual.

5 (b) An inpatient health care facility may deny visitation with a patient to any
6 person if any of the following applies:

7 1. The inpatient health care facility or a health care provider determines that
8 the patient may not receive any visitors.

9 2. The inpatient health care facility or a health care provider determines that
10 the presence of the person would endanger the health or safety of the patient.

11 3. The inpatient health care facility determines that the presence of the person
12 would interfere with the primary operations of the inpatient health care facility.

13 (END)