A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning Hospitals, Related Institutions, and Hospice Facilities – COVID–19 and Other Catastrophic Health Emergencies – Visitation

FOR the purpose of prohibiting a hospital, related institution, or hospice facility from restricting the visitation of a patient’s family member or health care agent based on measures related to COVID–19 or another catastrophic health emergency; authorizing the Maryland Department of Health to develop guidelines regarding the use of personal protective equipment by visitors if a patient is actively infected with COVID–19 or any disease constituting a catastrophic health emergency; and generally relating to visitation and hospitals, related institutions, and hospice facilities.

BY adding to Article – Health – General Section 6–301 and 6–302 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 3. Visitation in Hospitals, Related Institutions, and Hospice Facilities” Annotated Code of Maryland (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Health – General

Subtitle 3. Visitation in Hospitals, Related Institutions, and Hospice Facilities.

6–301.

IN THIS SUBTITLE, “COVID–19” MEANS, INTERCHANGEABLY AND
THE SARS–CoV–2 VIRUS.

6–302.

(A) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A HOSPITAL
OR RELATED INSTITUTION, AS DEFINED IN § 19–301 OF THIS ARTICLE, OR A HOSPICE
FACILITY, AS DEFINED IN § 19–901 OF THIS ARTICLE, MAY NOT RESTRICT THE
ABILITY OF A PATIENT’S FAMILY MEMBER OR HEALTH CARE AGENT TO VISIT THE
PATIENT BASED ON MEASURES IMPLEMENTED TO REDUCE THE SPREAD OF
COVID–19 OR ANY DISEASE THAT CONSTITUTES A CATASTROPHIC HEALTH
EMERGENCY.

(B) THE DEPARTMENT MAY DEVELOP GUIDELINES REGARDING THE USE OF
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT BY A FAMILY MEMBER OR HEALTH CARE AGENT
IF THE PATIENT BEING VISITED IS ACTIVELY INFECTED WITH COVID–19 OR ANY
DISEASE THAT CONSTITUTES A CATASTROPHIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
October 1, 2022.