

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2022 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 4349

BY DELEGATES PRITT, HAYNES, FERRELL, D. JEFFRIES,

DEAN, PHILLIPS, J. JEFFRIES, J. KELLY, MAYNOR,

GRAVES, AND KIMBLE

[Introduced January 24, 2022; Referred to the

Committee on Health and Human Resources]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
 2 designated §16-39-9, relating to permitting parents or guardians visit a minor patient in a
 3 health care facility.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 39. PATIENT SAFETY ACT.

§16-39-9. Child’s right to accompaniment by parents or guardians at medical appointments.

1 (a) Notwithstanding a health care facility’s visitation policy, a child has the right to be
 2 accompanied by his or her parents or guardians to an appointment in a health care facility:
 3 Provided, That visitation permitted by any health care facility may not be inconsistent with any
 4 applicable federal law, rule, policy, or guidance in effect.

5 (b) A visitor shall comply with the applicable procedures established by the health care
 6 facility.

7 (c) The health care facility may deny a visitor entry to the health care facility, may subject
 8 a visitor to expulsion from the facility, or may permanently revoke visitation rights to a visitor who
 9 does not comply with the applicable procedures established by the health care facility.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to create the right that a patient can be visited by every parent or guardian of that patient.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.