A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1   AN ACT

2 relating to in-person visitation with hospital patients during

3 certain periods of disaster.

4   BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5   SECTION 1. Sections 241.012(c), (g), and (i), Health and

6 Safety Code, are amended to read as follows:

7   (c) Notwithstanding Subsection (b), a hospital may during a

8 qualifying period of disaster:

9   (1) restrict the number of visitors a patient

10 receiving care or treatment at the hospital may receive at any one

11 time to not fewer than one;

12   (2) require a visitor to the hospital to:

13   (A) complete a health screening before entering

14 the hospital; and

15   (B) wear personal protective equipment at all

16 times while visiting a patient at the hospital; and

17   (3) deny entry to or remove from the hospital's

18 premises a visitor who fails or refuses to:

19   (A) submit to or meet the requirements of a

20 health screening administered by the hospital; or

21   (B) wear personal protective equipment that

22 meets the hospital's infection control and safety requirements in

23 the manner prescribed by the hospital.

24   (g) A determination made by an attending physician under

1 Subsection (f)(2) <u>must be in writing and</u> is valid for not more than

2 <u>48 hours</u> [~~five days~~] after [~~the date~~] the determination is made

3 unless renewed by an attending physician. <u>A renewal of the</u>

4 <u>determination must be in writing, is valid for not more than 48</u>

5 <u>hours after the renewal is made, and may be renewed in the same</u>

6 <u>manner as the initial determination.</u>

7   (i)   Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a

8 hospital may not prohibit in-person visitation by a religious

9 counselor <u>of the patient's choosing</u> with a patient who is receiving

10 care or treatment at the hospital [~~and who is seriously ill or~~

11 ~~dying~~] for a reason other than the religious counselor's failure to

12 comply with a requirement described by Subsection (c)(2).

13   SECTION 2.   This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.