**South Carolina General Assembly**

118th Session, 2009-2010

**S. 40**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Senator Ford

Document Path: l:\council\bills\nbd\11039ac09.docx

Companion/Similar bill(s): 39, 73, 75, 76

Introduced in the Senate on January 13, 2009

Currently residing in the Senate Committee on **Medical Affairs**

Summary: Authorized visitor designation

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

12/10/2008 Senate Prefiled

12/10/2008 Senate Referred to Committee on **Medical Affairs**

1/13/2009 Senate Introduced and read first time [SJ](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2009\01-13-09.docx)‑91

1/13/2009 Senate Referred to Committee on **Medical Affairs** [SJ](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2009\01-13-09.docx)‑91

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[12/10/2008](file:///p:\pprever\2009-10\40_20081210.docx)

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 44‑7‑65 SO AS TO REQUIRE HEALTH CARE FACILITIES TO ESTABLISH PROTOCOLS ALLOWING A PATIENT TO DESIGNATE AN INDIVIDUAL AS AN AUTHORIZED VISITOR REGARDLESS OF THE BLOOD OR LEGAL RELATIONSHIP OF THE PATIENT TO THE INDIVIDUAL.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Article 1, Chapter 7, Title 44 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 44‑7‑65. A health care facility, as defined in Section 44‑7‑130, shall develop a protocol allowing a patient to designate any individual as an authorized visitor, regardless of the blood or legal relationship of the patient to the individual. This protocol also must allow for the acceptance of a notarized hospital visitation authorization designating an individual as an authorized visitor and for the acceptance of such an authorization from the individual designated as an authorized visitor when a patient is incapacitated or otherwise unable to designate an authorized visitor.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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