MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 1560

H.P. 1160

House of Representatives, March 13, 2001

Milluent M. Mac Failand

An Act Authorizing Patients to Designate Visitors.

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative BLISS of South Portland. Cosponsored by Senator BROMLEY of Cumberland and

Representatives: BRANNIGAN of Portland, COLWELL of Gardiner, DUDLEY of Portland, MARLEY of Portland, McLAUGHLIN of Cape Elizabeth, NORBERT of Portland, Speaker

SAXL of Portland, Senator: President MICHAUD of Penobscot.

j	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
	Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §1711-D is enacted to read:
1	\$1711-D. Designation of visitors
	1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the
!	context otherwise indicates, the following terms have th
	following meanings.
	A. "Hospital" means an institution that primarily provide
	to inpatients, by or under the supervision of physicians
	diagnostic services and therapeutic services for medical
	diagnosis, treatment and care of injured, disabled or sich
	persons or rehabilitation services for the rehabilitation of
	injured, disabled or sick persons. "Hospital" includes
	psychiatric hospitals.
	B. "Nursing facility" means a facility as defined in
	section 1812-A and licensed under chapter 405.
	2. Patient authorized to designate visitors. A patient in
	a hospital or nursing facility may designate an individual or
j	individuals as eligible to visit the patient, regardless of
7	whether the visitor is a member of the patient's immediate family.
	3. Designation process. A health care provider in charge
	of patients in a hospital or nursing facility and a health care
	practitioner licensed under the laws of this State shall provide
	to a patient a process by which the patient may designate
	individuals as eligible to visit the patient in accordance with
	subsection 2. A record of the designation must be maintained in
	the patient's health care record and remains in effect until
-	revoked by the patient.
	4. Required to admit visitor. A hospital or nursing
	facility to which a patient has been admitted must permit
	individuals designated in accordance with subsection 2 to visi
	with the patient at reasonable and appropriate times unless the
	health care provider in charge has specified that no visitors are
	allowed.
	5. Limitation. This section does not apply to a patien
	under 18 years of age.
	SUMMARY
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	This bill provides a process by which a health care patient

nursing facility except when the health care provider in charge has specified that no visitors are allowed.