BILL SUMMARY

1st Session of the 58th Legislature

Bill No.: HB2687
Version: SAHB
Request Number: NA
Author: Hasenbeck
Date: 4/20/2021
Impact: No impact

Research Analysis

The Senate amendment to HB 2687 creates the No Patient Left Alone Act. The Senate amendment specifies that any minor who is admitted to a hospital in Oklahoma, has the right to have a parent, guardian, or a person who assumes parental status to have the ability to be present while the minor patient is receiving hospital care. Additionally, any adult who is admitted to a hospital in Oklahoma has the right to designate a spouse, family member or caregiver who will have the ability to be physically present while the adult patient is receiving hospital care.

The Senate amendment authorizes a hospital to establish visitation policies that limit or restrict visitation under certain conditions. Hospitals may require visitors to wear personal protective equipment provided that such equipment be provided by the hospital and they may also require visitors to comply with reasonable safety protocols and rules of conduct.

The rights specified in this amendment are prohibited from being terminated, suspended, or waived by the hospital, State Department of Health, or any governmental entity, not withstanding declarations of emergency declared by the Governor or the Legislature. Hospitals licensed in Oklahoma are prohibited from requiring a patient to waive the rights specified in this amendment. Furthermore, hospitals are required to post informational materials on its website explaining the patient's rights. The Senate amendment requires the State Department of Health to develop the informational materials and make it available to hospitals for this purpose.

Lastly, the Senate amendment prohibits the State Department of Health or any other state agency from taking any action against a hospital for certain acts or omissions.

Prepared By: Dan Brooks

Fiscal Analysis

The Senate amendment to HB 2687 has no fiscal or revenue considerations to the state.

Prepared By: Stacy Johnson

Other Considerations

None.