

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2021 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **House Bill 2672**

BY DELEGATES TULLY AND SUMMERS

[Introduced February 23, 2021; Referred  
to the Committee on Health and Human Resources]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §16-5B-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating  
2 to posting of safety information in hospitals.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

**ARTICLE 5B. HOSPITALS AND SIMILAR INSTITUTIONS.**

**§16-5B-8. State board of health to establish standards; director enforces.**

1 (a) The board of health shall have the power to Bureau for Public Health may promulgate  
2 rules and regulations and the director commissioner shall have the power to enforce such rules  
3 and regulations, as the board of health may establish, not in conflict with any provision of this  
4 article, as it finds necessary, or in the public interest, in order to protect patients in institutions  
5 required to be licensed under this article from detrimental practices and conditions, or to ensure  
6 adequate provision for their accommodations and care. No rule or regulation or standard of the  
7 board shall be adopted or enforced which would have the effect of denying a license to a hospital  
8 or other institution required to be licensed hereunder, solely by reason of the school or system of  
9 practice employed or permitted to be employed by physicians therein: *Provided*, That such school  
10 or system of practice is recognized by the laws of this state

1 (b) A hospital shall post signage in every patient room, patient care area/department, and  
2 staff rest area information outlining the process for reporting patient safety concerns via the  
3 facility’s designated internal reporting mechanism and the process for reporting unresolved  
4 patient safety concerns or complaints to the West Virginia Office for Health Facility Licensure and  
5 Certification. The posting shall include the address and telephone number for the West Virginia  
6 Office for Health Facility Licensure and Certification. This does not preclude any patient, patient  
7 representative, or healthcare provider from making a good faith report pertaining to patient safety  
8 concerns, alleged wrongdoing or waste to other appropriate authorities as defined in §16-39-3 of  
9 this code.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require a hospital to post the contact information to the

Office for Health Facility Licensure and Certification to notify individuals on how to file a complaint.

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