

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2021

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HOUSE BILL 587

Short Title: The Compassion, Healing, Access & Respect Act. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Quick.

*For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.*

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

April 19, 2021

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT REQUIRING HOSPITALS TO ALLOW IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS TO  
3 PRIVATELY VIEW THE BODY OF A DECEASED RELATIVE.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 SECTION 1. Part 2 of Article 5 of Chapter 131E of the General Statutes is amended  
6 by adding a new section to read:

7 "**§ 131E-79.5. Immediate family members' right to view body of deceased patient.**

8 Each hospital licensed under this Article shall allow every individual who presents proof that  
9 the individual is an immediate family member of a deceased patient the opportunity to privately  
10 view the body of the deceased patient as soon as it is safe and practical to do so. As used in this  
11 section, the term "immediate family member" includes a spouse, child, sibling, parent,  
12 grandparent, grandchild, or the spouse of an immediate family member. This term includes  
13 stepparents, stepchildren, stepsiblings, and adoptive relationships."

14 SECTION 2. This act is effective when it becomes law.

