

1 _____ BILL NO. _____

2 INTRODUCED BY _____
3 (Primary Sponsor)

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING THE MONTANA STATE HOSPITAL TO GRANT
5 ACCESS TO A LEGISLATOR."

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7 WHEREAS, the Montana State Hospital lost its federal certification from the Centers for Medicare and
8 Medicaid Services in 2022 due to several patient health-related and safety-related factors, including a
9 substantial number of deaths and falls; and

10 WHEREAS, many patients of Montana State Hospital live with traumatic brain injury, dementia, and
11 other cognitive challenges that impede their ability to advocate for themselves; and

12 WHEREAS, legislators are called on by their constituents to advocate for and intervene on behalf of all
13 Montanans, but especially those who are vulnerable.

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15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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17 NEW SECTION. Section 1. Legislative access. (1) A legislator must have immediate, unlimited
18 access at all times to the Montana state hospital.

19 (2) A legislator seeking access to the Montana state hospital is subject to routine security and
20 safety procedures of the facility or program.

21 (3) While in the Montana state hospital, a legislator shall prioritize and respect the health, dignity,
22 privacy, and welfare of Montana state hospital patients.

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24 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Codification instruction. [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an
25 integral part of Title 53, chapter 21, part 6, and the provisions of Title 53, chapter 21, part 6, apply to [section 1].

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