

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 403

2 INTRODUCED BY D. HAWK, S. NOVAK, M. LEE, J. SECKINGER, S. FYANT, E. BUTTREY, R. MARSHALL,
3 D. HARVEY, S. VINTON, C. GLIMM, G. OBLANDER, F. NAVE, B. USHER, B. BARKER, J. COHENOUR, S.
4 HOWELL, J. KARLEN, D. LENZ, T. MCGILLVRAY, B. BEARD, S. DEMAROIS, J. LYNCH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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26 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Codification instruction. [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an
27 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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