



***An Act Concerning Nursing Home Staffing.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (a) As used in this section, "nursing home facility"  
2 has the same meaning as provided in section 19a-521 of the general  
3 statutes, as amended.

4 (b) The Commissioner of Public Health shall adopt regulations, in  
5 accordance with chapter 54 of the general statutes, to establish  
6 minimum staffing levels for both licensed and certified direct care  
7 nursing personnel at nursing home facilities. In adopting and  
8 determining compliance with such regulations, the commissioner shall  
9 consider, at a minimum, the following criteria: (1) Health care service  
10 needs and acuity of patients; (2) hours of care per patient on a daily  
11 and weekly basis; (3) available health care technology; (4) nursing  
12 home facility floor plans; (5) the number of nursing home facility beds;  
13 and (6) treatment of subacute care patients. Such regulations shall  
14 provide for a staff-to-patient ratio of not less than (A) one direct care  
15 provider to eight patients during day shifts, (B) one direct care  
16 provider to twelve patients during evening shifts, and (C) one direct  
17 care provider to twenty patients during night shifts. Such regulations  
18 shall be submitted to the standing legislative regulation review  
19 committee in accordance with subsection (b) of section 4-170 of the  
20 general statutes, as amended, not later than January 1, 2001.

21 (c) Not later than January 1, 2002, and biennially thereafter, the  
22 commissioner shall submit a report concerning current staffing levels  
23 for both licensed and certified direct care nursing personnel at nursing  
24 home facilities to the joint standing committee of the General  
25 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health, in  
26 accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes. Such report shall  
27 include, but not be limited to, the commissioner's findings with respect  
28 to the sufficiency of such staffing levels to meet patient needs at  
29 nursing home facilities, and the availability of qualified licensed or  
30 certified personnel to meet such levels and needs.

31 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect from its passage.

**PH Committee Vote:** Yea 23 Nay 0 JFS

**HS Committee Vote:** Yea 11 Nay 6 JF