



House of Representatives

File No. 702

General Assembly

February Session, 2008

(Reprint of File No. 410)

Substitute House Bill No. 5902
As Amended by House Amendment Schedule
"A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
April 21, 2008

AN ACT CONCERNING HOSPITAL STAFFING.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2008*) (a) For purposes of this
2 section:

3 (1) "Department" means the Department of Public Health; and

4 (2) "Hospital" means an establishment for the lodging, care and
5 treatment of persons suffering from disease or other abnormal physical
6 or mental conditions and includes inpatient psychiatric services in
7 general hospitals.

8 (b) On and after July 1, 2009, each hospital licensed by the
9 department pursuant to chapter 368v of the general statutes shall,
10 upon request, make available to the department a prospective nurse
11 staffing plan with a written certification that the nurse staffing plan, at
12 the time such plan is developed, is sufficient to provide adequate and
13 appropriate delivery of health care services to patients in the ensuing
14 period of licensure. Such plan shall promote a collaborative practice in

15 the hospital that enhances patient care and the level of services
16 provided by nurses and other members of the hospital's patient care
17 team.

18 (c) Each hospital shall establish a hospital staffing committee to
19 assist in the preparation of the nurse staffing plan required pursuant to
20 subsection (b) of this section. Registered nurses employed by the
21 hospital to provide direct patient care shall account for not less than
22 fifty per cent of the membership of each hospital's staffing committee.
23 In order to comply with the requirement that a hospital establish a
24 hospital staffing committee, a hospital may utilize an existing
25 committee or committees to assist in the preparation of the nurse
26 staffing plan, provided not less than fifty per cent of the members of
27 such existing committee or committees are registered nurses employed
28 by the hospital to provide direct patient care. Each hospital, in
29 collaboration with its staffing committee, shall develop and implement
30 to the best of its ability the prospective nurse staffing plan. Such plan
31 shall: (1) Include the minimum professional skill mix for each patient
32 care unit in the hospital, including, but not limited to, inpatient
33 services, critical care and the emergency department; (2) identify the
34 hospital's employment practices concerning the use of temporary and
35 traveling nurses; (3) set forth the level of administrative staffing in
36 each patient care unit of the hospital that ensures direct care staff are
37 not utilized for administrative functions; (4) set forth the hospital's
38 process for internal review of the nurse staffing plan; and (5) include
39 the hospital's mechanism of obtaining input from direct care staff,
40 including nurses and other members of the hospital's patient care
41 team, in the development of the nurse staffing plan.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2008	New section

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

It is anticipated that both the Department of Public Health and the John Dempsey Hospital at the University of Connecticut Health Center will be able to accommodate various duties specified within this bill within each agency's normally budgeted resources.

House "A" makes changes that have no associated fiscal impact.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5902 (as amended by House "A")******AN ACT CONCERNING HOSPITAL STAFFING.*****SUMMARY:**

Beginning July 1, 2009, the bill requires each licensed hospital, upon request, to make available to the Department of Public Health (DPH) a prospective nurse staffing plan along with a written certification that the plan at the time of development is sufficient to provide adequate and appropriate patient health care services in the ensuing hospital licensure period.

The plan must promote collaborative practice in the hospital that improves patient care and the level of services provided by nurses and other hospital patient care team members.

The bill requires each hospital to establish a staffing committee to assist in preparing the nurse staffing plan. The hospital, in collaboration with the committee, must develop and implement the plan to the best of its ability. Hospitals may use existing committees to assist in plan development under certain conditions.

"Hospital" means an establishment for the lodging, care, and treatment of persons suffering from disease or other abnormal physical or mental conditions and includes inpatient psychiatric services in general hospitals.

*House Amendment "A" (1) eliminates a provision in the original bill (File 410) making plan development a condition of continued hospital licensure, (2) requires the hospital to make the plan available to DPH upon request instead of requiring its submission to DPH, (3)

specifies that the plan be sufficient at the time of development, (4) allows hospitals to use existing committees to develop the plans, (5) specifies that a hospital implement the plan “to the best of its ability, (6) eliminates a requirement that the plan identify collective bargaining agreements and certify hospital compliance, and (7) makes a technical change.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2008

NURSE STAFFING PLAN DEVELOPMENT

The bill requires registered nurses providing direct patient care at the hospital to make up at least 50% of the staffing committee’s membership. The hospital may use an existing committee or committees to assist with plan preparation if at least 50% of the membership includes direct care RNs.

The nurse staffing plan must:

1. include the minimum professional skill mix for each patient care unit in the hospital, including inpatient services, critical care, and the emergency department;
2. identify the hospital’s employment practices on using temporary and traveling nurses;
3. establish the level of administrative staffing in each patient care unit that ensures that direct patient care staff are not used for administrative functions;
4. describe the hospital’s process for internal review of the plan; and
5. include the hospital’s method for involving its direct care staff in developing the plan.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 30 Nay 0 (03/17/2008)