



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2014

LCO No. 4440

HB0538404440HDO

Offered by:

REP. JOHNSON, 49th Dist.

SEN. GERRATANA, 6th Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 5384

File No. 442

Cal. No. 258

"AN ACT CONCERNING REPORTS OF NURSE STAFFING LEVELS."

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. Section 19a-89e of the general statutes is repealed and the
4 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

5 (a) For purposes of this section:

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

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

11 (b) [On and after July 1, 2009, each] Each hospital licensed by the
12 department pursuant to chapter 368v shall [, upon request, make

13 available] report, annually, to the department on a prospective nurse
14 staffing plan with a written certification that the nurse staffing plan is
15 sufficient to provide adequate and appropriate delivery of health care
16 services to patients in the ensuing period of licensure. Such plan shall
17 promote a collaborative practice in the hospital that enhances patient
18 care and the level of services provided by nurses and other members of
19 the hospital's patient care team.

20 (c) Each hospital shall establish a hospital staffing committee to
21 assist in the preparation of the nurse staffing plan required pursuant to
22 subsection (b) of this section. Registered nurses employed by the
23 hospital whose primary responsibility is to provide direct patient care
24 shall account for not less than fifty per cent of the membership of each
25 hospital's staffing committee. In order to comply with the requirement
26 that a hospital establish a hospital staffing committee, a hospital may
27 utilize an existing committee or committees to assist in the preparation
28 of the nurse staffing plan, provided not less than fifty per cent of the
29 members of such existing committee or committees are registered
30 nurses employed by the hospital whose primary responsibility is to
31 provide direct patient care. Each hospital, in collaboration with its
32 staffing committee, shall develop and implement to the best of its
33 ability the prospective nurse staffing plan. Such plan shall: (1) Include
34 the minimum professional skill mix for each patient care unit in the
35 hospital, including, but not limited to, inpatient services, critical care
36 and the emergency department; (2) identify the hospital's employment
37 practices concerning the use of temporary and traveling nurses; (3) set
38 forth the level of administrative staffing in each patient care unit of the
39 hospital that ensures direct care staff are not utilized for administrative
40 functions; (4) set forth the hospital's process for internal review of the
41 nurse staffing plan; and (5) include the hospital's mechanism of
42 obtaining input from direct care staff, including nurses and other
43 members of the hospital's patient care team, in the development of the
44 nurse staffing plan. In addition to the information described in
45 subdivisions (1) to (5), inclusive, of this subsection, nurse staffing plans
46 developed and implemented after January 1, 2015, shall include: (A)

47 The number of registered nurses providing direct patient care and the
 48 ratio of patients to such registered nurses; (B) the number of licensed
 49 practical nurses providing direct patient care and the ratio of patients
 50 to such licensed practical nurses, by patient care unit; (C) the number
 51 of assistive personnel providing direct patient care and the ratio of
 52 patients to such assistive personnel, by patient care unit; (D) the
 53 method used by the hospital to determine and adjust direct patient
 54 care staffing levels; and (E) a description of supporting personnel
 55 assisting on each patient care unit. In addition to the information
 56 described in subdivisions (1) to (5), inclusive, of this subsection and
 57 subparagraphs (A) to (E), inclusive, of this subdivision, nurse staffing
 58 plans developed and implemented after January 1, 2016, shall include:
 59 (i) A description of any differences between the staffing levels
 60 described in the staffing plan and actual staffing levels for each patient
 61 care unit; and (ii) any actions the hospital intends to take to address
 62 such differences or adjust staffing levels in future staffing plans.

63 (d) On or before January 1, 2015, and annually thereafter, the
 64 Commissioner of Public Health shall report, in accordance with the
 65 provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the
 66 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public
 67 health concerning the effectiveness of hospital staffing plans, hospitals'
 68 compliance with reporting requirements under this section and
 69 recommendations concerning any additional reporting requirements."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2014	19a-89e