



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 18

January Session, 2015

House Bill No. 6690

House of Representatives, March 3, 2015

The Committee on Human Services reported through REP. ABERCROMBIE of the 83rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING NURSING HOME FACILITY MINIMUM STAFFING LEVELS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section,
2 (1) "nursing home facility" means a chronic and convalescent nursing
3 home, and (2) "nursing staff" means registered and licensed practical
4 nurses licensed pursuant to chapter 378 of the general statutes and
5 nurse's aides.

6 (b) On and after October 1, 2015, each nursing home facility shall
7 have sufficient nursing staff to maintain a daily minimum ratio of not
8 less than two and three-tenths nursing staff hours per resident.

9 (c) If any nursing home facility experiences increased costs or
10 expenditures complying with the provisions of this section, the
11 Department of Social Services shall adjust such facility's Medicaid rates
12 and provide payment for any such costs or expenditures within a
13 reasonable period of time and retroactive to the date of such increased

14 costs or expenditures.

15 (d) The Commissioner of Public Health shall adopt or amend
16 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the
17 general statutes, to implement the provisions of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

HS *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 16 \$	FY 17 \$
Social Services, Dept.	GF - Cost	Potential	Potential

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill could result in a cost associated with increasing nursing home facility staffing ratios. Based on nursing home data, all facilities currently meet an overall daily ratio of not less than 2.3 staff hours per resident, as required by the bill. Should ratios change, the Department of Social Services (DSS) is required to adjust the rate of any nursing home facility experiencing increased costs to comply with the bill's provisions.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

Sources: Department of Social Services- Rate Promulgation System

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 6690****AN ACT CONCERNING NURSING HOME FACILITY MINIMUM STAFFING LEVELS.****SUMMARY:**

This bill establishes a statutory daily minimum ratio of total nursing staff (registered and licensed practical nurses and nurse's aides) to residents of chronic and convalescent nursing homes (CCNHs). Currently, under Department of Public Health (DPH) regulations, CCNHs must meet minimum ratios of (1) 1.40 total nursing staff hours per patient from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. and (2) 0.5 total nursing staff hours per patient from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. The regulations set separate requirements for the ratio of licensed nursing staff hours per patient for those time periods (Conn. Agencies Reg., § 19-13-D8t(m)).

The bill increases the overall required daily ratio from 1.9 hours to 2.3 hours per patient. It does not differentiate by shift or between licensed and total nursing staff.

If a CCNH's costs or expenses increase, as a result of complying with its staffing ratio, the bill requires the Department of Social Services to adjust Medicaid rates and reimburse the CCNH for the increased costs or expenses within a reasonable time, retroactive to the date the cost or expense increased.

The bill also requires the DPH commissioner to adopt new regulations or amend the existing ones to implement its provisions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 18 Nay 0 (02/17/2015)