



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

Raised Bill No. 855

LCO No. 3029



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT CONCERNING REPORTS OF NURSE STAFFING LEVELS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 19a-89e of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

3 (a) For purposes of this section:

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

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

9 (b) [On and after July 1, 2009, each] Each hospital licensed by the
10 department pursuant to chapter 368v shall [, upon request, make
11 available] report, annually, to the department on a prospective nurse
12 staffing plan with a written certification that the nurse staffing plan is
13 sufficient to provide adequate and appropriate delivery of health care
14 services to patients in the ensuing period of licensure. Such plan shall

15 promote a collaborative practice in the hospital that enhances patient
16 care and the level of services provided by nurses and other members of
17 the hospital's patient care 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 whose primary responsibility is to provide direct patient care
22 shall account for not less than fifty per cent of the membership of each
23 hospital's staffing committee. In order to comply with the requirement
24 that a hospital establish a hospital staffing committee, a hospital may
25 utilize an existing committee or committees to assist in the preparation
26 of the nurse staffing plan, provided not less than fifty per cent of the
27 members of such existing committee or committees are registered
28 nurses employed by the hospital whose primary responsibility is to
29 provide direct patient care. Each hospital, in collaboration with its
30 staffing committee, shall develop and implement to the best of its
31 ability the prospective nurse staffing plan. Such plan shall: (1) Include
32 the minimum professional skill mix for each patient care unit in the
33 hospital, including, but not limited to, inpatient services, critical care
34 and the emergency department; (2) identify the hospital's employment
35 practices concerning the use of temporary and traveling nurses; (3) set
36 forth the level of administrative staffing in each patient care unit of the
37 hospital that ensures direct care staff are not utilized for administrative
38 functions; (4) set forth the hospital's process for internal review of the
39 nurse staffing plan; and (5) include the hospital's mechanism of
40 obtaining input from direct care staff, including nurses and other
41 members of the hospital's patient care team, in the development of the
42 nurse staffing plan. In addition to the information described in
43 subdivisions (1) to (5), inclusive, of this subsection, nurse staffing plans
44 developed and implemented after January 1, 2016, shall include: (A)
45 The number of registered nurses providing direct patient care and the
46 ratio of patients to such registered nurses; (B) the number of licensed
47 practical nurses providing direct patient care and the ratio of patients

48 to such licensed practical nurses, by patient care unit; (C) the number
49 of assistive personnel providing direct patient care and the ratio of
50 patients to such assistive personnel, by patient care unit; (D) the
51 method used by the hospital to determine and adjust direct patient
52 care staffing levels; and (E) a description of supporting personnel
53 assisting on each patient care unit. In addition to the information
54 described in subdivisions (1) to (5), inclusive, of this subsection and
55 subparagraphs (A) to (E), inclusive, of this subdivision, nurse staffing
56 plans developed and implemented after January 1, 2017, shall include:
57 (i) A description of any differences between the staffing levels
58 described in the staffing plan and actual staffing levels for each patient
59 care unit; and (ii) any actions the hospital intends to take to address
60 such differences or adjust staffing levels in future staffing plans.

61 (d) On or before January 1, 2016, and annually thereafter, the
62 Commissioner of Public Health shall report, in accordance with the
63 provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the
64 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public
65 health concerning the effectiveness of hospital staffing plans, hospital
66 compliance with reporting requirements under this section and
67 recommendations concerning any additional reporting requirements.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2015	19a-89e

Statement of Purpose:

To require hospitals to report to the Department of Public Health on nurse staffing levels.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]