



General Assembly

February Session, 2016

Raised Bill No. 278

LCO No. 1765



Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced by:
(HS)

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 registered pursuant to chapter 378a of the general
6 statutes.

7 (b) On and after October 1, 2016, each nursing home facility shall
8 have sufficient nursing staff available on site to maintain a daily
9 minimum staffing ratio of not less than two and three-tenths nursing
10 staff hours per resident.

11 (c) If any nursing home facility experiences increased costs or
12 expenditures due to compliance with the provisions of this section, the
13 Department of Social Services shall adjust such facility's Medicaid rates
14 and provide payment for any such costs or expenditures within a

15 reasonable period of time and retroactive to the date of such increased
16 costs or expenditures.

17 (d) The Commissioner of Public Health shall adopt or amend
18 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the
19 general statutes, to implement the provisions of this section. Such
20 regulations shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) the
21 establishment of a requirement for nursing home facilities to record the
22 number of nursing staff hours available on site to provide direct care to
23 residents, and (2) a definition of the term "direct care".

24 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2016*) (a) For purposes of this section:
25 (1) "Full-time" means forty hours per week; (2) "qualified social
26 worker" means a person who holds at least a bachelor's degree in
27 social work from a college or university that was accredited by the
28 Council on Social Work Education at the time of his or her graduation
29 and has at least one year social work experience in a health care
30 facility; (3) "nursing home facility" has the same meaning as provided
31 in section 1 of this act; and (4) "social work designee" means a person
32 with at least an associate's degree in a human services field or anyone
33 employed in a nursing home facility as a social work designee as of
34 January 1, 1989.

35 (b) Nursing home facilities shall provide the following minimum
36 number of qualified social worker or social work designee hours per
37 week, in the aggregate, for the period commencing with the effective
38 date of this section until September 30, 2020: (1) Ten hours for one to
39 twenty licensed beds; (2) twenty hours for twenty-one to forty licensed
40 beds; (3) thirty hours for forty-one to sixty licensed beds; (4) forty
41 hours for sixty-one to eighty licensed beds; and (5) ten additional
42 hours for every additional twenty licensed beds or fraction thereof
43 over eighty licensed beds.

44 (c) On and after October 1, 2020, nursing home facilities shall
45 provide the following minimum number of qualified social worker or

46 social work designee hours per week, in the aggregate: (1) Ten hours
47 for every fifteen licensed beds, and (2) one full-time qualified social
48 worker for every sixty licensed beds.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To ensure sufficient nursing and social work staff is available to provide care to nursing home facility residents.

[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.]