
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 7099

AN ACT INCREASING THE MINIMUM RATIO OF DIRECT CARE STAFF IN NURSING HOMES.

SUMMARY

Starting October 1, 2019, this bill requires chronic and convalescent nursing homes (CCNH) to maintain a minimum nursing staff ratio of at least three hours of direct care per resident per day. Under the bill, nursing staff include registered and licensed practical nurses and nurse's aides.

Current Department of Public Health (DPH) regulations require CCNHs to maintain aggregated licensed nurse and nurse's aide staffing levels of at least 1.9 hours of direct care per resident per day (see BACKGROUND).

The bill also requires the DPH commissioner to adopt or amend regulations to implement the bill's minimum nursing staff ratio. At a minimum, the regulations must (1) establish requirements for nursing homes to record the number of on-site direct care nursing staff hours available and (2) define the term "direct care."

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND

Current Minimum Nurse Staffing Standards for Nursing Homes

DPH licenses nursing homes at two levels of care: (1) CCNHs, which provide skilled nursing care, and (2) rest homes with nursing supervision (RHNS), which provide intermediate care. (Nursing homes generally have been phasing out RHNS beds or converting them to CCNH beds.)

Minimum staffing requirements for CCNHs and RHNS are set by regulation and depend on the time of day as shown in the table below

(Conn. Agencies Reg., § 19-13-D8t).

Table 1: Minimum Nurse Staffing Requirements for Nursing Homes

Direct Care Personnel	CCNH		RHNS	
	7 a.m. to 9 p.m.	9 p.m. to 7 a.m.	7 a.m. to 9 p.m.	9 p.m. to 7 a.m.
Licensed Nursing Personnel	0.47 hours per patient (hpp) (28 min.)	0.17 hpp (10 min.)	0.23 hpp (14 min.)	0.08 hpp (5 min.)
Total Nurses and Nurse Aide Personnel	1.40 hpp (1 hr. 24 min.)	0.50 hpp (30 min.)	0.70 hpp (42 min.)	0.17 hpp (10 min.)

COMMITTEE ACTION

Aging Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 11 Nay 0 (02/26/2019)