

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sSB-1057

AN ACT CONCERNING MINIMUM STAFFING LEVELS IN
NURSING HOMES.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Social Services, Dept.	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in a cost to the Department of Social Services (DSS) associated with revising nursing home staffing levels and establishing a minimum level of reimbursement for nursing homes.

Staffing ratio requirements will result in a significant cost to DSS to the extent nursing home staffing costs are reflected in future Medicaid payments. The bill specifies that a total of 4.1 hours of direct care be provided per resident per day, including 0.75 hours by a registered nurse (RN), 0.54 hours by a licensed practical nurse (LPN), and 2.81 hours by a certified nurse's assistant (CNA).

Based on 2019 nursing home staffing data, approximately 50% of homes do not meet the bill's requirements for RNs (with an average of 0.70 hours of direct care provided per resident per day). Approximately 10% of homes do not meet the LPN staffing requirements, while approximately 80% do not meet the requirements for CNAs. The cost for nursing homes to staff at the proposed levels will depend on the actual number and level of staff required and their associated wages but is anticipated to be at least \$80 million.

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Reviewer: LD

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In addition, the bill requires DSS to establish a minimum percentage of Medicaid reimbursement to nursing homes for the provision of direct care to nursing home residents. The impact depends on the minimum rate that will be established.

The Out Years

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