
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 273

AN ACT CONCERNING NURSING HOME STAFFING.

SUMMARY

Existing law requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to set minimum staffing levels in nursing homes of at least three hours of direct care per resident per day. This bill requires, by October 1, 2024, that the three hours include the following:

1. 0.55 hours of care by a licensed registered nurse (RN),
2. 0.29 hours of care by a licensed practical nurse (LPN), and
3. 2.16 hours of care by a registered nurse's aide.

The bill prohibits direct care provided by the following professionals from counting towards the minimum staffing level requirement:

1. the nursing director, for nursing homes with more than 61 beds;
2. the assistant nursing director, for nursing homes with more than 121 beds; and
3. an RN, LPN, or nurse's aide who has not completed, or is in the process of completing, any of the nursing home's orientation or training.

Under the bill, "direct care" is hands-on care provided by RNs, LPNs, or nurse's aides, including helping with feeding, bathing, toileting, dressing, lifting, and moving; administering medication; promoting socialization; and personal care services. It does not include food preparation, housekeeping, laundry services, maintaining the nursing home's physical environment, or performing administrative tasks.

Lastly, the bill requires DPH to modify the minimum requirement for nursing home recreational staff, making it higher, instead of lower, than current requirements, as the DPH commissioner deems appropriate. (In doing so, it appears to correct an inadvertent change made by PA 21-185.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 25 Nay 12 (03/20/2024)