
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 365

AN ACT CONCERNING SAFETY IN THE HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE.

SUMMARY

This bill requires certain health care facilities and home care entities that participate in Medicaid to adopt and implement the following workplace violence prevention standards:

1. for health care facilities, workplace violence prevention standards that apply to hospitals accredited by the Joint Commission (an independent, nonprofit organization that accredits and certifies hospitals and other health care organizations) and critical access hospitals; and
2. for home care entities, the home care worker health and safety training curriculum endorsed by the federal (a) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and (b) Occupational Safety and Health Administration, including training to recognize and manage common home care workplace hazards and improve safety.

Under the bill, the Department of Social Services (DSS) commissioner must require these facilities and entities to provide evidence that they adopted and implemented the above standards to continue receiving Medicaid reimbursements. (For home care entities, the commissioner may, at her discretion, approve alternative applicable workplace training programs.)

The bill also authorizes the commissioner to increase Medicaid rates for facilities and entities that report workplace violence incidents to DSS and the Department of Public Health in a timely way (i.e., within seven

days after they happen).

The bill's requirements apply to the following: (1) for health care facilities, hospitals, chronic disease hospitals, nursing homes, behavioral health facilities, multicare institutions, and psychiatric residential treatment facilities and (2) for home care entities, home health care, home health aide, assisted living services, and hospice agencies; residential care homes; and residential facilities for people with intellectual disabilities.

Lastly, the bill requires the DSS commissioner, starting July 1, 2024, to increase state reimbursement rates for home health care and home health aide agencies that provide safety escorts for staff doing home visits. Current law permits, but does not require, her to do this for agencies that incur extraordinary costs for escort services.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2024, except the provision on state reimbursements for home care safety escorts is effective upon passage.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 22 Nay 0 (03/19/2024)