
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 1279

AN ACT CONCERNING NURSING HOME STAFFING RATIOS.

SUMMARY

This bill changes the staffing level requirements the Department of Public Health (DPH) must set for nursing homes and adds to the penalties that apply for violating them. By law, unchanged by the bill, the commissioner must adopt regulations to implement the staffing requirements.

First, the bill increases by 36 minutes the minimum daily per resident direct care staffing level, from current law's three hours (180 minutes) to three and six-tenth hours (216 minutes). By law "direct care" is hands-on care from a registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or a nurse's aide, which includes things like feeding, bathing, dressing, and promoting socialization.

The bill makes the law's social worker staffing requirement a set one full-time worker per 60 residents standard, rather than current law's proportional standard, which is a number of hours based on one full-time worker per 60 residents. It also requires the commissioner to change the mandatory level for recreational staff to one that is higher than that which existed before 2024 (approximately 40 staff minutes per resident per day), as she deems appropriate. Current law requires her to set this level at one that is lower than what it was in 2021.

The bill makes substantially failing to comply with the above staffing level requirements a class B violation, which by law, is punishable by a civil penalty of up to \$10,000. Class B violations are those with potential for death or serious harm in the reasonably foreseeable future to any patient in the nursing home facility. It also makes the failure subject to the commissioner's disciplinary authority (e.g., suspending a license or certificate) against a nursing home or have a citation issued to its

licensee, rather than just being a failure to meet the staffing levels set in regulation.

Lastly, the bill (1) requires the commissioner to adopt regulations on the enforcement actions for failing to comply with the staffing level requirements and (2) makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

COMMITTEE ACTION

Aging Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 10 Nay 3 (03/04/2025)