



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

Raised Bill No. 273

LCO No. 2214



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT CONCERNING NURSING HOME STAFFING.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 19a-563h of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) As used in this section, "direct care" means hands-on care
4 provided by a registered nurse, licensed pursuant to chapter 378,
5 licensed practical nurse, licensed pursuant to chapter 378 or a nurse's
6 aide, registered pursuant to chapter 378a, to residents of nursing homes,
7 as defined in section 19a-563, including, but not limited to, assistance
8 with feeding, bathing, toileting, dressing, lifting and moving,
9 administering medication, promoting socialization and personal care
10 services, but does not include food preparation, housekeeping, laundry
11 services, maintenance of the physical environment of the nursing home
12 or performance of administrative tasks.

13 (b) On or before [January 1, 2022] October 1, 2024, the Department of
14 Public Health shall (1) establish minimum staffing level requirements
15 for nursing homes of three hours of direct care per resident per day,

16 including fifty-five hundredths of an hour of care by a registered nurse,
17 licensed pursuant to chapter 378, twenty-nine hundredths of an hour of
18 care by a licensed practical nurse, licensed pursuant to chapter 378, and
19 two and sixteen hundredths hours of care by a nurse's aide, registered
20 pursuant to chapter 378a; and (2) modify staffing level requirements for
21 social work and recreational staff of nursing homes such that the
22 requirements (A) for social work, a number of hours that is based on one
23 full-time social worker per sixty residents and that shall vary
24 proportionally based on the number of residents in the nursing home,
25 and (B) for recreational staff are [lower] higher than the current
26 requirements, as deemed appropriate by the Commissioner of Public
27 Health.

28 (c) Any direct care provided by the following persons shall not count
29 toward the minimum staffing level requirements established pursuant
30 to subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section: (1) In a nursing home
31 with more than sixty-one beds, the director of nurses; (2) in a nursing
32 home with more than one hundred twenty-one beds, the assistant
33 director of nurses; (3) a registered nurse, licensed practical nurse or
34 nurse's aide who has not completed or is in the process of completing
35 any of the nursing home's orientation or training.

36 ~~[(b)]~~ (d) The commissioner shall adopt regulations in accordance with
37 the provisions of chapter 54 that set forth nursing home staffing level
38 requirements to implement the provisions of this section. The
39 Commissioner of Public Health may implement policies and procedures
40 necessary to administer the provisions of this section while in the
41 process of adopting such policies and procedures as regulations,
42 provided notice of intent to adopt regulations is published on the
43 eRegulations System not later than twenty days after the date of
44 implementation. Policies and procedures implemented pursuant to this
45 section shall be valid until the time final regulations are adopted.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	19a-563h
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Statement of Purpose:

To establish minimum staffing level requirements for nursing homes.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]