

General Assembly

January Session, 2021



## AN ACT CONCERNING MINIMUM STAFFING LEVELS IN NURSING HOMES.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (Effective October 1, 2021) (a) As used in this section, 2 "nursing home" means (1) any chronic and convalescent nursing home or any rest home with nursing supervision that provides nursing 3 4 supervision under a medical director twenty-four hours per day, or (2) 5 any chronic and convalescent nursing home that provides skilled nursing care under medical supervision and direction to carry out 6 7 nonsurgical treatment and dietary procedures for chronic diseases, 8 convalescent stages, acute diseases or injuries.

9 (b) On or before January 1, 2022, the Department of Public Health 10 shall establish minimum staffing level requirements for nursing homes 11 of at least four and one-tenth hours of direct care per resident per day, 12 including seventy-five hundredths hours of care by a registered nurse, 13 fifty-four hundredths hours of care by a licensed practical nurse and two 14 and eighty-one hundredths hours of care by a certified nurse's assistant.

(c) The Commissioner of Public Health, in consultation with the
Commissioner of Social Services, shall (1) review the current definition
of the term "direct care" in the regulations of Connecticut state agencies
and consider redefining the term for purposes of minimum staffing level

requirements, (2) review and implement best practices for establishing and maintaining minimum staffing levels at nursing homes, (3) encourage nursing homes to adopt payment incentives for staff to work in a single nursing home, and (4) prohibit the hiring of any person subject to a consent order issued by the Department of Public Health for violations of health and safety regulations pertaining to nursing homes from working at a nursing home in any capacity.

- (d) The Commissioner of Social Services, in consultation with the
  Commissioner of Public Health, shall establish a minimum percentage
  of Medicaid reimbursement to nursing homes for the provision of direct
  care to nursing home residents.
- 30 (e) The Commissioner of Public Health shall adopt regulations in 31 accordance with chapter 54 of the general statutes to implement the
- 32 provisions of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following<br/>sections:Section 1October 1, 2021New section

## Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(b), "per resident" was changed to "per resident per day" for clarity.

HS Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO

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