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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETIETH SESSION

H. F. No. **464**

01/23/2017 Authored by Zerwas, Albright, Theis and Miller

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services Reform

03/15/2017 Adoption of Report: Amended and re-referred to the Committee on Government Operations and Elections Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to health; creating a working group to study home care nursing workforce
1.3 shortage; requiring a report.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. **STUDY AND REPORT ON HOME CARE NURSING WORKFORCE**
1.6 **SHORTAGE.**

1.7 (a) The commissioner of health shall establish a working group to study and report on
1.8 the shortage of registered nurses and licensed practical nurses available to provide
1.9 low-complexity regular home care services to clients in need of such services, especially
1.10 clients covered by medical assistance, and to provide recommendations for ways to address
1.11 the workforce shortage. The working group shall consist of at least the following members:

1.12 (1) one representative from the Professional Home Care Coalition;

1.13 (2) one representative from the Minnesota Home Care Association;

1.14 (3) one representative from the Minnesota Board of Nursing;

1.15 (4) one representative from the Minnesota Nurses Association;

1.16 (5) one representative from the Minnesota Licensed Practical Nurses Association;

1.17 (6) one representative from the Minnesota Society of Medical Assistants;

1.18 (7) two members of the senate, one appointed by the majority leader and one appointed
1.19 by the minority leader;

1.20 (8) two members of the house of representatives, one appointed by the speaker of the
1.21 house and one appointed by the minority leader;

2.1 (9) one client who receives regular home care nursing services and is covered by medical
2.2 assistance;

2.3 (10) one representative from the Department of Human Services; and

2.4 (11) one county public health nurse who is a certified assessor.

2.5 (b) The commissioner shall convene the first meeting of the working group no later than
2.6 August 15, 2017, and shall provide staff support and meeting space for the working group.
2.7 The Department of Health and the Department of Human Services shall provide technical
2.8 assistance to the working group including providing data documenting the current and
2.9 projected workforce shortages in the area of regular home care nursing. The home care and
2.10 assisted living program advisory council established under Minnesota Statutes, section
2.11 144A.4799, shall provide advice and recommendations to the working group. Working
2.12 group members shall serve without compensation.

2.13 (c) The working group shall:

2.14 (1) quantify the number of low-complexity regular home care nursing hours that are
2.15 authorized but not provided to clients covered by medical assistance, due to the shortage
2.16 of registered nurses and licensed practical nurses available to provide these home care
2.17 services;

2.18 (2) quantify the current and projected workforce shortages of registered nurses and
2.19 licensed practical nurses available to provide low-complexity regular home care nursing
2.20 services to clients, especially clients covered by medical assistance;

2.21 (3) develop recommendations for actions to take in the next two years to address the
2.22 regular home care nursing workforce shortage, including identifying other health care
2.23 professionals who may be able to provide low-complexity regular home care nursing services
2.24 with additional training; what additional training may be necessary for these health care
2.25 professionals; and how to address scope of practice and licensing issues;

2.26 (4) compile reimbursement rates for regular home care nursing from other states and
2.27 determine Minnesota's national ranking with respect to reimbursement for regular home
2.28 care nursing;

2.29 (5) determine whether reimbursement rates for regular home care nursing fully reimburse
2.30 providers for the cost of providing the service and whether the discrepancy, if any, between
2.31 rates and costs contributes to lack of access to regular home care nursing; and

2.32 (6) by January 15, 2018, report on the findings and recommendations of the working
2.33 group to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with

- 3.1 jurisdiction over health and human services policy and finance. The working group's report
- 3.2 shall include draft legislation.
- 3.3 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.