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H.324

Introduced by Representatives Donovan of Burlington, Aswad of Burlington,
Bohi of Hartford, Buxton of Royalton, Davis of Washington,
Lenes of Shelburne, Macaig of Williston, Mitchell of Barnard,
Mrowicki of Putney, Pearson of Burlington, Peltz of Woodbury,
South of St. Johnsbury and Wizowaty of Burlington

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Health; workforce; nursing; renal dialysis

Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to require a staffing ratio of nursing
staff to renal dialysis patients that is sufficient to ensure patient safety.

An act relating to renal dialysis patient safety

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. chapter 59 is added to read:

CHAPTER 59. STAFFING FOR PATIENT SAFETY

§ 2601. RENAL DIALYSIS PATIENT SAFETY

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Ambulatory care facility" means a facility providing health care
services not requiring an overnight stay.

1 (2) “Direct care nurse” or “direct care nursing personnel” means a
2 licensed practical nurse, registered nurse, or advanced practice registered
3 nurse, licensed pursuant to chapter 28 of Title 26.

4 (3) “Renal dialysis” means the removal of waste and other materials
5 from a patient’s blood through artificial means.

6 (b)(1) Each ambulatory care facility that provides for the treatment of
7 individuals with kidney disease through the use of renal dialysis shall maintain
8 on site sufficient direct care nursing personnel to ensure that all patients
9 undergoing dialysis have nursing care at all times provided by direct care
10 nurses trained in patient care related to renal dialysis. For purposes of this
11 section, “sufficient direct care nursing personnel” means at least one direct
12 care nurse and three technicians for every nine patients; nurses and technicians
13 performing duties other than direct care to patients shall not be included in the
14 staffing ratio.

15 (2) If renal dialysis is performed in more than one room of the
16 ambulatory care facility, at least one registered nurse shall be present at all
17 times in each room in which a patient is undergoing renal dialysis. The
18 registered nurse may be included in the staffing ratio required pursuant to
19 subdivision (1) of this subsection only if he or she is providing direct care to
20 renal dialysis patients.

1 (c) An ambulatory care facility shall maintain a sufficient level of staffing
2 of nondirect care personnel to ensure that each direct care staff member is able
3 to perform direct care services.

4 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

5 This act shall take effect on passage.