

1 S.83

2 Introduced by Senators Pollina, Kittell and McCormack

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Health; workforce; nursing; renal dialysis

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

8 An act relating to renal dialysis patient safety

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

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

11 CHAPTER 59. STAFFING FOR PATIENT SAFETY

12 § 2601. RENAL DIALYSIS PATIENT SAFETY

13 (a) As used in this section:

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

16 (2) "Direct care nurse" or "direct care nursing personnel" means a
17 licensed practical nurse, registered nurse, or advanced practice registered
18 nurse, licensed pursuant to chapter 28 of Title 26.

19 (3) "Renal dialysis" means the removal of waste and other materials
20 from a patient's blood through artificial means.

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

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

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

19 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

20 This act shall take effect on passage.