
HOUSE BILL 1710

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Morrell, Clibborn, Cody, Green, Moeller, Appleton and Conway

Read first time 02/02/2005. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to health care staffing level reporting; adding a
2 new section to chapter 70.41 RCW; and adding a new section to chapter
3 18.51 RCW.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 70.41 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) Each hospital shall compile and post in a visible and
8 accessible manner and location of the patient care area of each unit of
9 the hospital the following information regarding each unit and shift:

10 (a) The number of registered nurses licensed under chapter 18.79
11 RCW providing direct patient care and the ratio of patients to
12 registered nurses;

13 (b) The number of licensed practical nurses licensed under chapter
14 18.79 RCW providing direct patient care and the ratio of patients to
15 licensed practical nurses;

16 (c) The number of nursing assistants certified or registered under
17 chapter 18.88A RCW providing direct patient care and the ratio of
18 patients to nursing assistants;

1 (d) The number of other credentialed health care providers
2 providing direct patient care to meet any state or federal staffing
3 requirements; and

4 (e) The methods used by the hospital for determining and adjusting
5 direct patient care staffing levels.

6 (2) Each hospital shall compile the monthly averages of the
7 information listed in subsection (1) of this section by unit and shift
8 and report the data to the department every six months at a time and in
9 a manner prescribed by the department. In addition, the hospital shall
10 provide a copy of the report to any member of the public upon request.
11 The department shall compile an annual report of the reports that it
12 receives from each hospital and make the information available to the
13 public.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 18.51 RCW
15 to read as follows:

16 (1) Each nursing home shall compile and post in a visible and
17 accessible manner and location of the residential area information
18 about the number and type of credentialed health care providers who are
19 directly responsible for resident care. The information shall specify
20 the ratio of credentialed health care providers to residents according
21 to each shift.

22 (2) Each nursing home shall compile the monthly averages of the
23 information listed in subsection (1) of this section by shift and
24 report it to the department every six months at a time and manner
25 prescribed by the department. In addition, the nursing home shall
26 provide a copy of the report to any member of the public upon request.
27 The department shall compile an annual report of the reports that it
28 receives from each nursing home and make the information available to
29 the public.

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