

ENGROSSED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1230

By: Kirby and Deutschendorf
of the House

and

Williams of the Senate

(public health and safety - nurses-aide-to-resident ratios
- codification - effective date)

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-1925.2 of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. For purpose of the provisions of this section:

1. "Nurses aide" means any person who provides nursing or nursing-related services to residents in a nursing facility and who has been certified by the Oklahoma Department of Health. The term "nurses aide" shall not include registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, certified medication aides, dietitians, janitorial staff, therapists and therapy assistants, activity and social service directors and staff or administrative staff of the nursing facility; and

2. "Direct care nursing staff" means any nurses aide, registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or certified medication aide who provides hands-on nursing services to residents shall be included in the direct-care-nursing-staff-to-resident ratio in any shift.

B. It is the intent of the Oklahoma Legislature that all nursing facilities subject to the staffing of nursing facilities, shall, to the extent practical and possible, maintain, as the minimum direct-care-nursing-staff-to-resident ratio, the following:

1. From 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., one direct care nursing staff to every seven residents by July 1, 1998, and to every five patients by July 1, 2000;

2. From 3:00 p.m. to 11.00 p.m., one direct care nursing staff to every ten residents by July 1, 1998, and to every seven by July 1, 2000; and

3. From 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m., one direct care nursing staff to every twelve residents by July 1, 1998, and to every ten by July 1, 2000.

C. The State Board of Health shall submit a report on January 1 of each year to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate detailing which nursing facilities are meeting the minimum direct-care-nursing-staff-to-resident ratio specified by this section and which nursing facilities are failing to meet such ratio. Such report shall be available to the public upon request.

1. The Department of Human Services shall study the cost savings related to hospitalization, surgery, other therapies and treatments, and workers compensation which may be achieved by mandatory increase in numbers of direct care nursing staff.

2. The Department of Human Services shall study the cost to nursing facilities of compliance with this section and establish a penalty that exceeds the cost of compliance.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 1997.

Passed the House of Representatives the 4th day of March, 1997.

Speaker

of the House of
Representatives

Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 1997.

President

of the Senate