

1159

Sponsor(s): Representatives Schual-Berke, Campbell, Cody, Skinner, Ruderman, Pennington, Conway, D. Schmidt, Linville, Kenney, Wood, Benson, Edmonds, Ogden, Keiser, Lovick, Esser and Haigh

Brief Description: Reimbursing nursing homes for direct care costs.

HB 1159 - DIGEST

Finds that absent changes to the nursing home case mix reimbursement system for direct care costs, unintended consequences of the system scheduled to be implemented in the 2001-2003 biennium could negatively impact the quality of care required by nursing home residents. In order to assure that unanticipated rate reductions resulting in lowered staffing levels do not occur, the legislature finds that a delay in further implementation is warranted while the legislature examines these issues and makes necessary corrections to the system.

Creates the joint legislative task force on the direct care component of the nursing home reimbursement system.

Charges the task force with reviewing the extent to which the direct care reimbursement rates relate to the level of acuity and needs of the patients served, encourage nursing home providers to staff appropriately to those demonstrated needs, and allow providers to both recruit and retain staff necessary to providing high quality patient care in a cost-effective manner.

Requires the task force to complete its review and submit its recommendations in the form of a report to the legislature by December 1, 2001.