
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2712

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By House Committee on Health Care (originally sponsored by Representatives Morrell, Cody, Darneille, Moeller, Clibborn, McIntire, Chase and Conway)

READ FIRST TIME 02/06/04.

1 AN ACT Relating to a task force on nurses' work environment and
2 patient safety; creating new sections; and providing an expiration
3 date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Health care research has demonstrated
6 positive correlations between nurse staffing and quality nursing care
7 including better patient outcomes, improvements in safety of staff, job
8 satisfaction, retention, and reduction of workplace injuries. Among
9 the factors to be considered in analyzing the nurses' work environment
10 include the current and future nursing and health work force shortages;
11 health care facility efforts related to health personnel work
12 environment; the relationship between patient safety, patient outcomes,
13 staff safety, job satisfaction, nurse staffing, and retention
14 initiatives; and variability of health care facility location and size.
15 Therefore, the legislature finds that a task force to examine the
16 nurses' work environment is necessary to ensure quality patient care in
17 Washington state.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The secretary of health shall convene a task
2 force on nurses' work environment to prepare a report to the
3 legislature and propose measures aimed at improving patient safety by
4 addressing the features of nurses' current work environments related to
5 patient safety, patient outcomes, nurse job satisfaction, and nurse
6 retention.

7 (1) In preparing its report, the task force shall:

8 (a) Consider available information, including authoritative sources
9 and research related to nurses' work environments including, but not
10 limited to, the Institute of Medicine's 2003 report, Keeping Patients
11 Safe: Transforming the Work Environment of Nurses, the Joint
12 Commission for Accreditation of Health Care Organization's standards,
13 and state and federal legal requirements;

14 (b) Address priorities for implementing recommendations of the
15 Institute of Medicine's report in Washington, as well as other means of
16 improving patient safety;

17 (c) Analyze and propose strategies to improve those features of
18 nurses' current work environments related to patient safety, patient
19 outcomes, nurse job satisfaction, and nurse retention;

20 (d) Consider examples of staffing systems designed to improve
21 patient safety, quality of care, and retention of nursing staff;

22 (e) Consider the variability of health care facility size and
23 setting in Washington state that may affect staffing patterns and other
24 activities related to staffing;

25 (f) Consider the effect of the current and future nursing and
26 health care work force shortages on staffing; and

27 (g) Consider initiatives of Washington state health care facilities
28 on staffing and how they relate to and interact with other efforts that
29 address patient safety, staff safety, and nursing and other health
30 personnel job satisfaction and retention.

31 (2) The task force shall consist of fifteen members appointed by
32 the secretary of health. Members shall include:

33 (a) Six representatives from organizations representing nurses
34 involved in direct patient care, to include at least four registered
35 nurses. One member shall be a health care professional working in a
36 long-term care setting;

37 (b) One representative of an organization representing hospitals;

1 (c) Two registered nurses in managerial or executive roles, who are
2 representatives of an organization representing nurse executives;

3 (d) One faculty member of an academic institution preparing
4 registered nurses;

5 (e) One consumer representative;

6 (f) The secretary of health or the secretary's designee;

7 (g) One chief executive officer or chief operating officer of a
8 hospital;

9 (h) One human resources director or executive of a health care
10 facility who is a representative of an organization representing health
11 care human resources executives; and

12 (i) One representative of organizations representing long-term care
13 facilities.

14 (3) The task force shall issue its report to the legislature by
15 January 1, 2005.

16 (4) Any administrative costs of the department of health shall be
17 borne from nursing license fee revenues from existing fees deposited
18 into the health professions account.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act expires January 1, 2005.

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