
HOUSE BILL 2712

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2004 Regular Session

By Representatives Morrell, Cody, Darneille, Moeller, Clibborn,
McIntire, Chase and Conway

Read first time 01/20/2004. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

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 continues to
6 demonstrate the direct correlation between nurse staffing and better
7 patient outcomes. Moreover, improvements in safety of staff, job
8 satisfaction, and reduction of workplace injuries have also been
9 directly linked to higher registered nurse staffing levels. Therefore,
10 to safeguard the public and support registered nurses, the legislature
11 finds that a task force to examine the nurses' work environment and
12 patient safety is essential to ensure quality patient care in
13 Washington state.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The secretary of health shall convene a task
15 force on nurses' work environment and patient safety to prepare a
16 report to the legislature and propose measures aimed at improving
17 patient safety by addressing the features of nurses' current work

1 environments that may contribute to commission of preventable adverse
2 patient events.

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

4 (a) Consider the Institute of Medicine's 2003 report, Keeping
5 Patients Safe: Transforming the Work Environment of Nurses;

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

9 (c) Examine current nurse staffing patterns in Washington health
10 care facilities; and

11 (d) Include, as part of its recommendations, proposals for staffing
12 systems designed to improve patient safety, quality of care, and
13 retention of nursing staff.

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

16 (a) Two registered nurses from organizations representing nurses
17 involved in direct patient care;

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

19 (c) Four health care professionals involved in direct patient care,
20 to include two registered nurses and one health care professional
21 working in a long-term care setting;

22 (d) Two registered nurses in managerial or executive roles;

23 (e) One faculty member of an academic institution preparing
24 registered nurses;

25 (f) One consumer representative;

26 (g) One representative of the nursing care quality assurance
27 commission;

28 (h) One quality director of a health care facility;

29 (i) One human resources representative of a health care facility;

30 and

31 (j) One representative of the long-term care facilities.

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

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

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

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