

LC01735

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2005**

**A N A C T**

**RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- RIGHTS OF NURSING HOME PATIENTS**

Introduced By: Representatives Rice, Almeida, Jackson, Lewiss, and Handy

Date Introduced: February 15, 2005

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 23-17.5 of the General Laws entitled "Rights of Nursing Home  
2 Patients" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3           **23-17.5-30. Staffing levels.** – The director of the department of health shall promulgate  
4 legislation establishing minimum staffing levels for nursing facilities. These regulations shall  
5 establish ratios for various disciplines. The regulations shall establish staff to patient ratios for  
6 registered nurses, licensed practical nurses and certified nursing assistants as are required to meet  
7 resident's needs.

8           The regulations shall be established assuming a standard three (3) shifts per day. The  
9 department shall require "specialty" units such as Alzheimer's units, sub-acute units, etc., to  
10 establish and maintain ratios that exceed the standard established ratios.

11           The purpose of these staffing ratios shall be to ensure levels of care adequate to provide  
12 safety, quality care and the full provision of all rights afforded resident patients under Rhode  
13 Island law. The ratios for certified nurse assistants (CNAs) to patients shall be as follows:

14           (1) One CNA for every six (6) residents on the 7:00 am to 3:00 pm shift.

15           (2) One CNA for every ten (10) residents on the 3:00 pm to 11:00 pm shift.

16           (3) One CNA for every twelve (12) residents on the 11:00 pm to 7:00 am shift.

17           The ratios for registered nurses (RNs) and licensed practical nurses (LPNs) shall be  
18 established and implemented no later than October 1, 2006.

19           The director of the department of health shall establish these ratios by convening a

1 [committee of all affected parties and disciplines including, but not limited to, providers/operators/](#)  
2 [administrators, advocates for residents, state regulators and nursing home employee organizations](#)  
3 [both unions and professional organizations.](#)

4 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- RIGHTS OF NURSING HOME PATIENTS

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- 1 This act would establish minimum staffing levels for nursing facilities.
- 2 This act would take effect upon passage.

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