

§§1,4 -
C.30:13-18 to
30:13-19
§2 –
C.26:2H-12.96
§3 - T&E
§5 - Note

P.L. 2020, CHAPTER 112, *approved October 23, 2020*
Senate, No. 2712 (*Second Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning staffing requirements for nursing homes and
2 supplementing Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.

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4 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. a. Notwithstanding any other staffing requirements as may
8 be established by law, every nursing home as defined in section 2 of
9 P.L.1976, c.120 (C.30:13-2) or licensed pursuant to P.L.1971, c.136
10 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.) shall maintain the following minimum
11 ¹**certified nurse aide** direct care staff¹ -to-resident ratios:

12 (1) one certified nurse aide to every ¹**eight** ²**six**¹ eight²
13 residents for the day shift;

14 (2) one ¹**certified nurse aide** direct care staff member¹ to
15 every 10 residents for the evening shift ¹, provided that no fewer
16 than half of all staff members shall be certified nurse aides, and
17 each staff member shall be signed in to work as a certified nurse
18 aide and shall perform certified nurse aide duties¹; and

19 (3) one ¹**certified nurse aide** direct care staff member¹ to
20 every ¹**16** ¹14 residents for the night shift ¹, provided that each
21 direct care staff member shall sign in to work as a certified nurse
22 aide and perform certified nurse aide duties¹.

23 b. Upon any expansion of resident census by the nursing home,
24 the nursing home shall be exempt from any increase in ¹**certified**
25 **nurse aide** direct care¹ staffing ratios for a period of nine
26 consecutive shifts from the date of the expansion of the resident
27 census.

28 c. (1) The computation of ¹**certified nurse aide**¹ minimum
29 direct care¹ staffing ratios shall be carried to the hundredth place.

30 (2) If the application of the ratios listed in subsection a. of this
31 section results in other than a whole number of direct care staff,
32 including¹ certified nurse aides ¹,¹ for a shift, the number of
33 required ¹**certified nurse aides** direct care staff members¹ shall be

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SHH committee amendments adopted September 14, 2020.

²Senate SBA committee amendments adopted September 21, 2020.

rounded to the next higher whole number when the resulting ratio, carried to the hundredth place, is fifty-one hundredths or higher.

(3) All computations shall be based on the midnight census for the day in which the shift begins.

d. Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect any minimum staffing requirements for nursing homes as may be required by the Commissioner of Health for staff other than ¹direct care staff, including¹ certified nurse aides, or to restrict the ability of a nursing home to increase staffing levels, at any time, beyond the established minimum.

¹e. The minimum direct care staffing ratios required by this section shall not apply to any pediatric long-term care facility licensed by the Department of Health.

f. As used in this section, "direct care staff member" means any registered professional nurse, licensed practical nurse, or certified nurse aide who is acting in accordance with that individual's authorized scope of practice, and pursuant to documented employee time schedules.¹

¹2. A long-term care facility licensed pursuant to P.L.1971, c.136 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.) may employ certified homemaker-home health aides to work as certified nurse aides, provided that the homemaker-home health aide is enrolled in a qualified certified nurse aide program and is working toward certification as a certified nurse aide.¹

¹3. a. There is established in, but not of, the Department of Labor and Workforce Development the Special Task Force on Direct Care Workforce Retention and Recruitment. The purpose of the task force shall be to:

(1) evaluate current direct care staffing levels in the State;

(2) examine policies and procedures used to track data on direct care staffing, including workforce turnover rates in long-term care, staffing statistics, and vacancy rates;

(3) examine the effectiveness of staff retention and recruitment strategies and initiatives that are in place for direct care staff;

(4) identify any existing circumstances that allow for a shortage or surplus of direct care staff;

(5) develop recommendations for legislation, policies, and short-term and long-term strategies for the retention and recruitment of direct care staff to ensure an adequate workforce is in place to provide high-quality, cost-effective health care; and

(6) develop recommendations for a waiver process.

b. The task force shall take appropriate actions to effectuate its purposes, including, but not limited to, engaging in the evaluation of workplace practices and organizational cultures, advancement opportunities, job supports and incentives, training opportunities,

- 1 wages and benefits, educational initiatives, and certification
2 reciprocity rules.
- 3 c. The task force shall consist of 16 members, as follows:
- 4 (1) the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development,
5 the Commissioner of Human Services, the Commissioner of Health,
6 the Secretary of Higher Education, and the New Jersey Long-Term
7 Care Ombudsman, or their designees, who shall serve ex officio;
- 8 (2) two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the
9 Senate, which members shall not be from the same political party;
- 10 (3) two members of the General Assembly appointed by the
11 Speaker of the General Assembly, which members shall not be from
12 the same political party; and
- 13 (4) seven public members, including:
- 14 (a) one direct care staff professional who has experience as a
15 certified nurse aide in a not-for-profit nursing facility, one direct
16 care staff professional who has experience as a certified nurse aide
17 in a for-profit nursing facility, and one representative of the Health
18 Care Association of New Jersey, to be appointed by the Governor;
- 19 (b) one representative from a Statewide majority labor
20 representative in non-profit or for-profit nursing facilities and one
21 representative of the New Jersey Hospital Association, to be
22 appointed by the President of the Senate; and
- 23 (c) one representative of the American Association of Retired
24 Persons and one representative of LeadingAge New Jersey and
25 Delaware, to be appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly.
- 26 d. All appointments to the task force shall be made within 120
27 days after the effective date of this act. Any vacancies in the
28 membership shall be filled in the same manner as the original
29 appointments. The members of the task force shall serve without
30 compensation but may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses
31 incurred in the performance of their duties, within the limits of
32 funds made available to the task force for this purpose.
- 33 e. The Department of Labor and Workforce Development shall
34 provide professional and clerical staff to the task force as necessary
35 to carry out its duties and effectuate its purposes.
- 36 f. The task force shall organize as soon as practicable, but not
37 more than 120 days after the effective date of this act. The task
38 force shall meet and hold hearings at the times and places it may
39 deem appropriate and necessary to fulfill its duties and effectuate its
40 purposes under this section. The task force shall hold at least one
41 public hearing in each of the northern, central, and southern regions
42 of the State, the purpose of which hearings shall be to meet with
43 long-term care providers and solicit their input and
44 recommendations regarding the retention and recruitment of direct
45 care staff.
- 46 g. No later than one year after the date of the task force's
47 organizational meeting, the task force shall prepare and submit to
48 the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164

1 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature, a report of its activities under
2 this section. The report shall identify the task force's findings on
3 long-term care issues and its recommendations for addressing those
4 issues.

5 h. The task force shall expire upon submission of the report
6 required pursuant to subsection g. of this section.¹

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8 ¹**[2.] 4.**¹ Pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
9 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), the Commissioner of Health
10 shall adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this
11 act.

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13 ¹**[3.] 5.**¹ This act shall take effect of the first day of the fourth
14 month next following the date of enactment, but the Commissioner
15 of Health may take such anticipatory administrative action in
16 advance thereof as shall be necessary for the implementation of this
17 act. ¹Section 3 of this act shall expire upon submission of the task
18 force's report required pursuant to subsection g. of section 3 of this
19 act.¹

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23
24 Establishes minimum direct care staff-to-resident ratios in
25 nursing homes.