



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 1279

LCO No. 4150



Referred to Committee on AGING

Introduced by:
(AGE)

AN ACT CONCERNING NURSING HOME STAFFING RATIOS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 19a-563h of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

3 (a) As used in this section, "direct care" means hands-on care
4 provided by a registered nurse, licensed pursuant to chapter 378,
5 licensed practical nurse, licensed pursuant to chapter 378, or a nurse's
6 aide, registered pursuant to chapter 378a, to residents of nursing homes,
7 as defined in section 19a-563, including, but not limited to, assistance
8 with feeding, bathing, toileting, dressing, lifting and moving,
9 administering medication, promoting socialization and personal care
10 services, but does not include food preparation, housekeeping, laundry
11 services, maintenance of the physical environment of the nursing home
12 or performance of administrative tasks.

13 (b) [On or before January 1, 2022] On and after July 1, 2026, the
14 Department of Public Health shall (1) establish minimum staffing level
15 requirements for nursing homes of [three hours of direct care per
16 resident per day, and (2) modify staffing level requirements for social
17 work and recreational staff of nursing homes such that the requirements

18 (A) for social work, a number of hours that is based on one full-time
 19 social worker per sixty residents and that shall vary proportionally
 20 based on the number of residents in the nursing home, and (B) for
 21 recreational staff are lower than the current requirements, as deemed
 22 appropriate by the Commissioner of Public Health.] at least three and
 23 six-tenths hours of direct care per resident per day, including sixty-six-
 24 hundredths of an hour of care by a registered nurse, forty-nine-
 25 hundredths of an hour of care by a licensed practical nurse and two and
 26 forty-five-hundredths hours of care by a registered nurse's aide, and (2)
 27 modify staffing level requirements for social work and recreational staff
 28 of nursing homes such that the requirements (A) for social work are one
 29 full-time social worker per sixty residents, and (B) for recreational staff
 30 are higher than the requirements prior to January 1, 2024, as deemed
 31 appropriate by the Commissioner of Public Health. Such minimum
 32 staffing level requirements shall remain in effect until the department
 33 establishes minimum staffing level requirements pursuant to subsection
 34 (c) of this section.

35 (c) On or before January 1, 2028, the Department of Public Health
 36 shall (1) establish minimum staffing level requirements for nursing
 37 home facilities of at least four and one-tenth hours of direct care per
 38 resident per day, including three-quarters of an hour of care by a
 39 registered nurse, fifty-four-hundredths of an hour of care by a licensed
 40 practical nurse and two and eighty-one-hundredths hours of care by a
 41 registered nurse's aide, and (2) modify staffing level requirements for
 42 social work and recreational staff of nursing homes such that the
 43 requirements (A) for social work are one full-time social worker per
 44 sixty residents, and (B) for recreational staff are higher than the
 45 requirements prior to January 1, 2024, as deemed appropriate by the
 46 Commissioner of Public Health.

47 [(c)] (d) The commissioner shall adopt regulations in accordance with
 48 the provisions of chapter 54 [that set forth nursing home staffing level
 49 requirements] to implement the provisions of this section. [The
 50 Commissioner of Public Health may implement policies and procedures

51 necessary to administer the provisions of this section while in the
52 process of adopting such policies and procedures as regulations,
53 provided notice of intent to adopt regulations is published on the
54 eRegulations System not later than twenty days after the date of
55 implementation. Policies and procedures implemented pursuant to this
56 section shall be valid until the time final regulations are adopted.]

57 Sec. 2. Section 19a-562h of the general statutes is repealed and the
58 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

59 (a) [If] On and after July 1, 2026, if the Commissioner of Public Health
60 finds that a nursing home facility has substantially failed to comply with
61 a nursing home facility staffing level requirement established pursuant
62 to [the regulations of Connecticut state agencies] section 19a-563h, as
63 amended by this act, such violation shall be considered a class B
64 violation pursuant to section 19a-527, and, the commissioner may (1)
65 take any disciplinary action against the nursing home facility permitted
66 under section 19a-494, and (2) issue or cause to be issued a citation to
67 the licensee of such nursing home facility pursuant to the provisions of
68 section 19a-524, as amended by this act.

69 (b) A citation of a nursing home facility staffing level requirement set
70 forth in the regulations of Connecticut state agencies shall be
71 prominently posted in the nursing home facility and included in the
72 listing prepared by the Department of Public Health pursuant to the
73 provisions of section 19a-540.

74 (c) The Commissioner of Public Health shall adopt regulations, in
75 accordance with chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this section.

76 Sec. 3. Section 19a-524 of the general statutes is repealed and the
77 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

78 If, upon review, investigation or inspection pursuant to section 19a-
79 498, the Commissioner of Public Health determines that a nursing home
80 facility or residential care home has violated any provision of section

81 17a-876, 19a-491a to 19a-491c, inclusive, 19a-493a, 19a-521 to 19a-529,
 82 inclusive, 19a-531 to 19a-551, inclusive, [or] 19a-553 to 19a-555,
 83 inclusive, or, on and after July 1, 2026, section 19a-563h, as amended by
 84 this act, or any provision of any regulation of Connecticut state agencies
 85 relating to licensure, the Fire Safety Code or the operation or
 86 maintenance of a nursing home facility or residential care home, which
 87 violation has been classified in accordance with section 19a-527, the
 88 commissioner may immediately issue or cause to be issued a citation to
 89 the licensee of such nursing home facility or residential care home.
 90 Governmental immunity shall not be a defense to any citation issued or
 91 civil penalty imposed pursuant to this section or sections 19-525 to 19a-
 92 528, inclusive. Each such citation shall be in writing, provide notice of
 93 the nature and scope of the alleged violation or violations, and include,
 94 but not be limited to, the citation and notice of noncompliance issued in
 95 accordance with section 19a-496. Each citation and notice of
 96 noncompliance issued under this section shall be sent to the licensee
 97 electronically in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner or
 98 by certified mail at the address of the nursing home facility or residential
 99 care home in issue. A copy of such citation and notice of noncompliance
 100 shall also be sent to the licensed administrator at the address of the
 101 nursing home facility or residential care home.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	19a-563h
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	19a-562h
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	19a-524

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) establish minimum nursing home staffing levels, and (2) impose stricter penalties for violations.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]