



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 1279

January Session, 2025



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 Section 19a-563h of the general statutes is repealed and the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] 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] at least three
22 and six-tenths hours of direct care per resident per day, and (2) modify
23 staffing level requirements for social work and recreational staff of
24 nursing homes such that the requirements (A) for social work are one
25 full-time social worker per sixty residents, and (B) for recreational staff
26 are higher than the requirements prior to January 1, 2024, as deemed
27 appropriate by the Commissioner of Public Health.

28 (c) The commissioner shall adopt regulations in accordance with the
29 provisions of chapter 54 [that set forth nursing home staffing level
30 requirements] to implement the provisions of this section. The
31 Commissioner of Public Health may implement policies and procedures
32 necessary to administer the provisions of this section while in the
33 process of adopting such policies and procedures as regulations,
34 provided notice of intent to adopt regulations is published on the
35 eRegulations System not later than twenty days after the date of
36 implementation. Policies and procedures implemented pursuant to this
37 section shall be valid until the time final regulations are adopted.

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 Section 19a-562h of the general statutes is repealed and the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

40 (a) [If] On and after July 1, 2026, if the Commissioner of Public Health
41 finds that a nursing home facility has substantially failed to comply with
42 a nursing home facility staffing level requirement established pursuant
43 to [the regulations of Connecticut state agencies,] section 19a-563h, as
44 amended by this act, such violation shall be considered a class B
45 violation pursuant to section 19a-527, and the commissioner may (1)
46 take any disciplinary action against the nursing home facility permitted
47 under section 19a-494, and (2) issue or cause to be issued a citation to
48 the licensee of such nursing home facility pursuant to the provisions of
49 section 19a-524, as amended by this act.

50 (b) A citation of a nursing home facility staffing level requirement set
51 forth in the regulations of Connecticut state agencies shall be

52 prominently posted in the nursing home facility and included in the
53 listing prepared by the Department of Public Health pursuant to the
54 provisions of section 19a-540.

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

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

59 If, upon review, investigation or inspection pursuant to section 19a-
60 498, the Commissioner of Public Health determines that a nursing home
61 facility or residential care home has violated any provision of section
62 17a-876, 19a-491a to 19a-491c, inclusive, 19a-493a, 19a-521 to 19a-529,
63 inclusive, 19a-531 to 19a-551, inclusive, [or] 19a-553 to 19a-555,
64 inclusive, or, on and after July 1, 2026, section 19a-563h, as amended by
65 this act, or any provision of any regulation of Connecticut state agencies
66 relating to licensure, the Fire Safety Code or the operation or
67 maintenance of a nursing home facility or residential care home, which
68 violation has been classified in accordance with section 19a-527, the
69 commissioner may immediately issue or cause to be issued a citation to
70 the licensee of such nursing home facility or residential care home.
71 Governmental immunity shall not be a defense to any citation issued or
72 civil penalty imposed pursuant to this section or sections 19-525 to 19a-
73 528, inclusive. Each such citation shall be in writing, provide notice of
74 the nature and scope of the alleged violation or violations, and include,
75 but not be limited to, the citation and notice of noncompliance issued in
76 accordance with section 19a-496. Each citation and notice of
77 noncompliance issued under this section shall be sent to the licensee
78 electronically in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner or
79 by certified mail at the address of the nursing home facility or residential
80 care home in issue. A copy of such citation and notice of noncompliance
81 shall also be sent to the licensed administrator at the address of the
82 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>July 1, 2026</i>	19a-524

AGE *Joint Favorable Subst.*