

HB 695 -- Staffing and Quality Care for Veterans Homes and Mental Health Facilities

Co-Sponsors: Walsh, Yaeger, Jones, Lowe, Bland, Moore, Muckler, Vogt, Johnson (61)

This bill requires veterans homes and mental health facilities to adopt minimum staffing ratios to ensure the safety of residents and staff. The bill outlines minimum staffing requirements and a resident-staff ratio that must be adopted by the Missouri Veterans Commission and the Department of Mental Health. The bill also outlines restrictions on staffing assignments and mandatory overtime of staffing. Veterans home management and mental health facilities are responsible for any harm to residents from insufficient staffing. Veterans home management and mental health facilities must submit a monthly report on staffing to the commission and department.

Direct care staff who object to assignments due to noncompliance must document noncompliance on provided forms. The forms must be distributed to supervisors, the commission, or the department and are open to public inspection. Complaints may also be submitted by residents or their guardians. The commission or department must investigate all complaints. If the commission or department finds evidence of a violation of this law, it must issue a plan to correct the violation within two business days. Failure to implement the plan may result in a warning; the suspension of the home or facility superintendent without pay; or, after two suspensions, the termination of the home or facility superintendent. Retaliation by home or facility management is unlawful and will result in termination of the management position.

Persons who sustain personal injuries as a result from violations of this law have a cause of action for damages.