

HB 588 -- Patient Safety

Sponsor: Schaaf

This bill requires hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers to implement an acuity-based patient classification system. Minimum direct-care registered nurse-to-patient ratios are specified for various units within a hospital or ambulatory surgical center. As a condition of licensing, each hospital or ambulatory surgical center must annually submit to the Department of Health and Senior Services a prospective staffing plan which is sufficient to meet the specified ratios.

Hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers can be fined \$25,000 for failing to follow a daily written nurse staffing plan. The fines collected will be deposited into the Health Initiatives Fund.