

HB 2450 -- Patient Safety

Sponsor: Page

This bill requires each licensed hospital to create a nursing advisory board to establish and implement a standardized acuity-based patient classification system within six months of the bill's effective date for each direct-care unit in the hospital. The Department of Health and Senior Services is required to establish, monitor, and manage each advisory board.

Minimum direct-care registered nurse-to-patient ratios are specified for various units within a hospital. As a condition of licensing, each hospital must annually submit to the department a prospective staffing plan which is sufficient to meet the specified ratios and certify that the staffing plan is being followed.

The department can suspend or revoke any hospital license for failure to comply with an order of noncompliance. A person or entity that falsifies a document that is required to be filed with the department under the provisions of the bill will be guilty of a class C misdemeanor. Hospitals can be fined up to \$25,000 per violation for failing to follow a daily written nurse staffing plan. The fines collected will be deposited into the Health Initiatives Fund to provide moneys to any state school of nursing to increase faculty, grant scholarships, or assist licensed practical nurses in becoming registered nurses.