

HB 725 -- Patient Safety

Sponsor: LeVota

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.

By January 1, 2011, all hospitals must meet minimum direct-care registered nurse-to-patient ratios as specified for various units within a hospital. As a condition of licensing, each hospital must annually submit to the department a staffing plan with a written certification that the hospital is in compliance with the established acuity-based nurse-to-patient ratios which accomplishes specified requirements.

The department can suspend or revoke any hospital's license for failure to comply with an order arising from a 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 in-state school of nursing to increase faculty, grant scholarships, or assist licensed practical nurses in becoming registered nurses.