

SENATE BILL SUMMARY

Prepared by the Division of Legislative Information for the Senate Bill **AS ORIGINALLY FILED**. For more detail, see Senate Bill Analyses, if available, prepared by the Senate's professional committee staff.

SB 1338 Health Care Facilities/Nurse Staffing by Senator Hill

Cites this act as the "Safe Staffing for Quality Care Act." Prescribes safe staffing standards for acute care hospitals, emergency care, ambulatory, or outpatient surgery facilities, or psychiatric facilities. Specifies that such facilities shall provide staffing by registered nurses in accordance with the minimum nurse-to-patient ratios. Provides that staffing for care that does not require a registered nurse is not included within these ratios and must be determined pursuant to the patient classification system.

Requires licensed facilities to submit an annual staffing plan to the Agency for Health Care Administration. Provides standards for the required skill mix which must ensure that all of the following elements of the nursing process are performed in the planning and delivery of care for each patient: assessment, nursing diagnosis, planning, intervention, evaluation, and patient advocacy. Requires compliance with the staffing plan. Prohibits mandatory overtime. Permits employees to refuse certain assignments and to report suspected violations of safe staffing standards. (See bill for details)