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REPRINT

FIRST
A.B. 313ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 313—ASSEMBLYWOMEN
GIUNCHIGLIANI
AND KOIVISTO

MARCH 13, 2003

Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

SUMMARY—Directs Legislative Committee on Health Care to conduct study ~~of staffing ratios on Nevada's nursing shortage issues and its impact on in hospitals and similar health care facilities Nevada's healthcare delivery system.~~ (BDR S-729)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: Yes.
Effect on the State: Yes.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~{omitted material}~~ is material to be omitted.

Green numbers along left margin indicate location on the printed bill (e.g., 5-15 indicates page 5, line 15).

AN ACT relating to health care; directing the Legislative Committee on Health Care to conduct a study ~~of staffing ratios on Nevada's nursing shortage issues and its impact on in hospitals and similar health care facilities Nevada's healthcare delivery system;~~ and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

~~Whereas, Adequate levels of staffing at hospitals and other health care facilities ensure the delivery of health care services in a manner that promotes proper care of patients and optimum outcomes; and~~

~~Whereas, Financial pressures can result in the reduction of staffing ratios, jeopardizing the delivery of high quality health care and adversely affecting the health of patients; and~~

~~Whereas, Establishing appropriate staffing ratios and related controls and protections can ensure that financial pressures do not adversely affect the quality of health care provided to patients in hospitals and other health care facilities; now, therefore,~~

Whereas, Nevada has been listed as the State in the Nation with the most severe nursing shortage (520 nurses per 100,000 population with a national average of 786); and it is the shortage of available registered nurses that is driving the staffing challenges being faced by every healthcare provider in Nevada; and

Whereas, the availability of adequate nursing staff is paramount to the access to high quality healthcare in Nevada healthcare's delivery system; now, therefore,

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. 1. ~~The Legislative Committee on Health Care shall appoint a subcommittee to conduct a an interim study of staffing ratios on Nevada's nursing shortage issues and its impact on in hospitals and similar health care facilities Nevada's healthcare delivery system. The study must include identify the:~~

~~(a) Establishing parameters for:~~

~~(1) Staffing plans in hospitals; and~~

~~(2) Minimum staffing ratios for nurses;~~

~~(b) Required recordkeeping by hospitals concerning statistics related to patients and staffing, including a requirement that~~

~~hospitals begin collecting data before establishing staffing ratios for nurses;~~

~~(c) Establishing limitations upon the number of hours that nurses may work;~~

~~(d) Specifying conditions under which nurses may refuse work assignments;~~

~~(e) Specifying actions that hospitals are prohibited from taking with respect to their employees;~~

~~(f) The public disclosure of information concerning staffing plans; and~~

~~(g) Administrative and criminal penalties for hospitals that do not adhere to the requirements for staffing.~~

(a) Severity of Nevada's nursing shortage;

(b) Causes of Nevada's nursing shortage;

(c) Solutions for Nevada's nursing shortage, long and short term; and

(d) Retention and recruitment practices in effect within the state of Nevada.

2. This study will be a statewide collaboration of individuals that includes a representative from:

(a) The Nevada Nurses Association

(b) The Bureau of Licensure and Certification

(c) The Nevada Hospital Association

(d) The Nevada State Board of Nursing

(e) The Nevada State Medical Society

(f) A Quality Assurance Provider

(g) Designated Legislators; Senate and Assembly

(h) Labor

(i) The Legislative Council Bureau

(j) Nevada Rural Hospital Partners;

3. Use the report "Nursing Workforce Supply and Demand in Nevada, 2000 to 2020" that was released by the High Sierra Area

Health Education Center to identify the severity of Nevada's current and future Nursing Shortage; and

4. The subcommittee shall continue to explore solutions to ensure adequate nursing resources to meet the growing health care needs in the State of Nevada.

RESOLVED, That no action may be taken by the subcommittee on recommended legislation unless it receives a majority vote of the Senators and a majority vote of the Assemblymen on the subcommittee; the subcommittee's recommendations can only be submitted to the Legislative Committee on Health Care for further consideration; and be it further

2. RESOLVED, That the subcommittee shall report to the Legislative Committee on Health Care which shall complete the study on or before June 1, 2004, and submit a report of its findings and any recommendations for legislation on or before July 1, 2004, to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the Legislative Commission and the 73rd Session of the Nevada Legislature.