

S 1357

Nurse Staffing Standards for Hospital Patient Safety and Quality Care Act of 2019

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: May 8, 2019

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. (May 8, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/1357>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]

Party: Democratic • **State:** OH • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (6 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		May 8, 2019
Sen. Harris, Kamala D. [D-CA]	D · CA		May 8, 2019
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		May 8, 2019
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		May 8, 2019
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		Aug 1, 2019
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Jul 20, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 8, 2019

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 2581	Identical bill	May 9, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Nurse Staffing Standards for Patient Safety and Quality Care Act of 2019

This bill requires hospitals to implement and submit to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) a staffing plan that complies with specified minimum nurse-to-patient ratios by unit. Hospitals must post a notice regarding nurse-to-patient ratios in each unit and maintain records of actual ratios for each shift in each unit. The bill also requires hospitals to follow certain procedures regarding how ratios are determined and other staff are prohibited from performing nurse functions unless specifically authorized within a state's scope of practice rules, among other requirements.

HHS must adjust Medicare payments to hospitals to cover additional costs attributable to compliance with these ratios.

Nurses may object to, or refuse to participate in, an assignment if it would violate minimum ratios or if they are not prepared by education or experience to fulfill the assignment without compromising the safety of a patient or jeopardizing their nurse's license. Hospitals may not (1) take adverse actions against a nurse based on the nurse's reasonable refusal to accept an assignment; or (2) discriminate against individuals for good faith complaints relating to the care, services, or conditions of the hospital or related facilities. HHS may impose civil monetary penalties on hospitals violating the ratio requirements and must publish the names of such hospitals.

The bill provides stipends to the nurse workforce loan repayment and scholarship program and expands the nurse retention grant program to include nurse preceptorship and mentorship projects.

Actions Timeline

- **May 8, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 8, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.