S 5319

Nurse Overtime and Patient Safety Act

Congress: 119 (2025–2027, Current)
Chamber: Senate
Policy Area: Health
Introduced: Aug 6, 2026
Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.
Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Aug 6, 2026)
Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/5319

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]
Party: Democratic • **State:** OR • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Fetterman, John [D-PA]	D · PA		Aug 6, 2026
Sen. Schiff, Adam B. [D-CA]	D · CA		Aug 6, 2026
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		Aug 6, 2026

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	Aug 6, 2026

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
119 HR 10056	Related bill	**Aug 6, 2026:** Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

Summary (as of Aug 6, 2026)

Nurse Overtime and Patient Safety Act

This bill requires certain providers, as a condition of Medicare participation, to limit mandatory overtime for nurses.

Specifically, the bill prohibits hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, home health agencies, rural health clinics, federally qualified health centers, and other specified providers from requiring nurses to work (1) more than a previously scheduled shift, 48 hours in a workweek, or 12 consecutive hours in a 24-hour period; or (2) during the 10 hours immediately following the 12th hour worked in a shift during a 24-hour period.

Qualifying work hours include time spent in training, on call, and on standby. The bill's provisions do not apply during declared emergencies or disasters, subject to specified conditions, and do not preclude voluntary overtime.

The bill also establishes (1) certain protections for nurses who file complaints against providers, (2) documentation and notice requirements for providers, and (3) potential civil penalties for violations.

Actions Timeline

- **Aug 6, 2026:** Introduced in Senate
- **Aug 6, 2026:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

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