

General Assembly

February Session, 2022

Referred to Committee on AGING

Introduced by: (AGE)

Raised Bill No. 265

LCO No. **2108**

AN ACT CONCERNING NOTICE OF STAFF-TO-PATIENT RATIOS, ROOM TELEPHONE ACCESS AND ASBESTOS MITIGATION MEASURES AT NURSING HOME FACILITIES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Section 19a-562g of the general statutes is repealed and the
 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

3 (a) Each nursing home facility shall calculate on a daily basis, for the 4 purposes of posting the information required under subsection (b) of 5 this section, the total number of nurses and nurse's aides providing 6 direct patient care to residents of the nursing home facility. In 7 calculating the total number, a nursing home facility shall not include 8 any nurse or nurse's aide who is on transportation duty and who is not 9 providing direct patient care for the primary portion of his or her shift 10 or any nurse or nurse's aide who is categorized as a member of the 11 nursing home facility's management or administration and who is not 12 providing direct patient care for the primary portion of his or her shift.

(b) Each nursing home facility shall post, in accordance with 42 CFR
483.35(g), the following information on a daily basis at the beginning of

15 each shift, <u>(1) on the facility's Internet web site, and (2)</u> in a legible format
and in a conspicuous place readily accessible to and clearly visible by
residents, employees and visitors of the nursing home facility,
including, but not limited to, persons in a wheelchair:

19 [(1)] (<u>A</u>) Name of the nursing home facility;

20 [(2)] (<u>B</u>) Date;

[(3)] (<u>C</u>) Total number of [(A)] (<u>i</u>) advanced practice registered nurses,
[(B)] (<u>ii</u>) registered nurses, [(C)] (<u>iii</u>) licensed practical nurses, and [(D)]
(<u>iv</u>) nurse's aides, who will be responsible for direct patient care during
the shift;

[(4)] (D) Total number of hours such [(A)] (i) advanced practice registered nurses, [(B)] (ii) registered nurses, [(C)] (iii) licensed practical nurses, and [(D)] (iv) nurse's aides are scheduled to work during the shift; and

29 [(5)] (E) Total number of nursing home facility residents.

30 (c) In addition to the information posted pursuant to subsection (b) 31 of this section, each nursing home facility shall post the following 32 information on a daily basis, at the beginning of each shift, <u>(1) on the</u> 33 <u>facility's Internet web site, and (2)</u> in a legible format and in a 34 conspicuous place readily accessible to and visible by residents, 35 employees and visitors of the nursing home facility, including, but not 36 limited to, persons in a wheelchair:

[(1)] (<u>A</u>) The minimum number of nursing home facility staff per shift
that is required by the regulations of Connecticut state agencies to be
responsible for providing direct patient care to residents of the nursing
home facility; and

[(2)] (B) The telephone number or Internet web site that a resident, employee or visitor of the nursing home facility may use to report a suspected violation by the nursing home facility of a regulatory requirement concerning staffing levels and direct patient care. (d) Each nursing home facility shall, upon oral or written request,
make the daily information posted pursuant to subsections (b) and (c)
of this section available to the public for review. The nursing home
facility shall retain such information for not less than eighteen months
from the date such information was posted.

50 Sec. 2. Section 19a-509f of the general statutes is amended by adding 51 subsections (c) and (d) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

(NEW) (c) No owner or operator of a residential care home, nursing
home or rest home shall charge a resident for the installation, use or
maintenance of a landline phone to make local calls.

(NEW) (d) A residential care home or rest home shall provide at least one landline phone in good working order in any common area of such home. A nursing home shall provide such phone in good working order in any resident room upon request by a resident for exclusive use by such resident or persons authorized by such resident to use such phone.

60 Sec. 3. Section 19a-536 of the general statutes is repealed and the 61 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

62 Each nursing home administrator, as defined in section 19a-511, shall 63 permit [patients in] residents and patients of the nursing home, relatives 64 and legal representatives of, and any other person designated by, such 65 residents and patients and persons interested in placing someone in a 66 nursing home to inspect all inspection reports pertaining to nursing 67 home facilities made by the Department of Public Health, the State Fire 68 Marshal, local fire and health departments or other state and local 69 agencies having jurisdiction over the institution, and all summary 70 copies of current inspection reports of the United States Department of 71 Health and Human Services as provided in the Social Security Act. [, 72 and shall] If such reports do not contain information on "asbestos" and 73 "asbestos abatement", as defined in section 19a-332, each nursing home 74 facility shall disclose in writing (1) whether any asbestos exists in the 75 facility, and if asbestos does exist in the facility, the location of the 76 asbestos, and (2) any asbestos abatement scheduled to occur in the

77 facility, the dates and times such abatement will occur and steps to 78 ensure the safety of nursing home facility residents and patients during 79 such asbestos abatement. Each nursing home facility shall provide a room adequate for [such] inspection of reports and disclosures during 80 81 normal business hours, provided no such reports, disclosures or copies 82 thereof shall disclose the name of any resident or patient in any nursing 83 home facility. Such nursing home administrator shall post or cause to be 84 posted in a conspicuous place in the nursing home facility a notice stating that such reports and disclosures are available for inspection and 85 86 the location where they may be inspected.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following		
sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2022	19a-562g
Sec. 2	July 1, 2022	19a-509f
Sec. 3	July 1, 2022	19a-536

Statement of Purpose:

To require that nursing home facilities post daily staffing levels on their Internet web sites, provide working telephones in resident rooms and inform residents, patients, or prospective residents or patients, of asbestos mitigation measures.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]