

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021

As Engrossed: S4/22/21
A Bill

SENATE BILL 611

By: Senator D. Wallace

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE *ACUITY-BASED CARE COMMITTEE*; TO RECOMMEND PROTOCOLS AND PROCEDURES TO CREATE STANDARDIZATION AND CONSISTENCY IN NURSE STAFFING WITHIN HOSPITALS AND REHABILITATION AND LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE THE ACUITY-BASED CARE COMMITTEE; AND TO RECOMMEND PROTOCOLS AND PROCEDURES TO CREATE STANDARDIZATION AND CONSISTENCY IN NURSE STAFFING WITHIN HOSPITALS AND REHABILITATION AND LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY. Acuity-Based Care Committee – Creation – Membership – Duties.

(a) There is created the Acuity-Based Care Committee to study nurse staffing in all hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, and long-term care facilities.

(b) The committee shall consist of the following members:

(1) A member of the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(2) A member of the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

(3) A representative of the Department of Health;



- (4) A representative of the Department of Human Services;
- (5) A representative of the Arkansas Hospital Association, Inc.;
- (6) A representative of the Arkansas Nurses Association;
- (7) A representative of the Arkansas State Board of Nursing;
- (8) A representative of the Arkansas Health Care Association;
- (9) A representative of the Arkansas Rural Health Partnership;
- (10) A representative of the Arkansas Minority Health

Commission;

- (11) A representative of the Arkansas Center for Nursing, Inc.;
- (12) A representative of the Arkansas Organization of Nurse

Executives;

- (13) A representative of the Arkansas Chapter of the Alzheimer's

Association;

- (14) A representative of the Arkansas State Office of AARP,

Inc.;

- (15) A representative of the Arkansas Emergency Nurses

Association;

- (16) A representative of the Arkansas Nursing Home Nurses

Association;

- (17) A representative of the Arkansas Chapter of the American

Association of Critical Care Nurses;

- (18) A representative of Blue Cross Blue Shield; and

- (19) A representative of Centene Corporation.

(c) If a vacancy occurs on the committee, the vacancy shall be filled by the same process as the original appointment.

(d) The legislative members of the committee shall be paid per diem and mileage as authorized by law for attendance at meetings of interim committees of the General Assembly.

(e)(1) The Director of the Department of Health shall call the first meeting of the committee within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this act and shall serve as chair at the first meeting.

(2) At the first meeting of the committee, the members of the committee shall elect from the committee's membership a chair or cochairs and other officers as needed for the transaction of its business.

- (3)(A) The committee shall meet at the Department of Health.

- (B) Meetings of the committee shall be held at least

one (1) time every three (3) months but may occur more often at the call of the chair or cochairs.

(4) The committee shall establish rules and procedures for conducting its business.

(5)(A) A majority of the members of the committee shall constitute a quorum for transacting business of the committee.

(B) An affirmative vote of a majority of a quorum present shall be required for the passage of a motion or other committee action.

(6) The Department of Health shall provide staff, meeting space, and materials for the committee.

(f)(1) The purpose of the committee is to examine and identify areas of needed reform with regard to the protocol, procedures, and mechanisms related to current nurse staffing practices in all hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, and long-term care facilities.

(2) To achieve this purpose, the committee shall:

(A) Study practices and protocols of other states with regard to nurse staffing;

(B) Consult stakeholders and interested parties in the state; and

(C) Develop best practices and recommended protocols, including identifying areas of needed statutory or regulatory reform with regard to nurse staffing.

(g) On or before March 1, 2022, the committee shall file with the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor and the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor a final written report of the committee's activities, findings, and recommendations.

(h) The committee shall expire on March 1, 2022.

/s/D. Wallace