



The Legislature
of the
State of New Mexico

50th Legislature, 2nd Session

LAWS 2012

CHAPTER _____

HOUSE CONSUMER AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE MEMORIAL 51

Introduced by



1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO REPORT ON NURSE-TO-
3 PATIENT RATIOS AT HOSPITALS IN NEW MEXICO.

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5 WHEREAS, there are nurse-to-patient standards proposed
6 by national nursing organizations for specific patient groups
7 that many hospitals throughout the United States have adopted;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, nurses are required to advocate for patient
10 needs, including ensuring the safety of patients, as no other
11 medical profession is required to do; and

12 WHEREAS, nurse-to-patient ratios reflect the minimum
13 number of nurses that are needed to provide adequate care for
14 a maximum number of patients; and

15 WHEREAS, nurse-to-patient ratios help provide an optimum
16 standard of care for patients and protect the safety of
17 patients and hospital personnel; and

18 WHEREAS, it is proven that when nurse-to-patient ratios
19 are enforced, patients spend fewer days in the hospital and
20 patient outcomes are greatly improved; and

21 WHEREAS, there are currently no minimum standards for
22 nurse-to-patient ratios in New Mexico law and there is limited
23 oversight and evaluation by the department of health to
24 determine if hospitals have implemented appropriate nurse-to-
25 patient ratios and are complying with nurse-to-patient ratios

1 that each hospital has adopted; and

2 WHEREAS, annual review of nurse-to-patient ratio
3 standards by the department of health is necessary to assure
4 that the state does not fall behind national standards and
5 that patients in New Mexico can receive the same quality of
6 care as patients in other states; and

7 WHEREAS, input from stakeholder groups in New Mexico is
8 essential in ensuring that standards reflect any special
9 circumstances or conditions pertaining to the delivery of care
10 in hospital settings in the state, and should be actively
11 sought out by the department of health in reviewing the
12 standards;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
14 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the following
15 organizations be requested to provide input in review of the
16 standards to ensure that the standards reflect any special
17 circumstances or conditions pertaining to the delivery of care
18 in hospital settings in the state:

- 19 A. American association of critical-care nurses;
20 B. association of perioperative registered nurses;
21 C. oncology nursing society;
22 D. New Mexico emergency nurses association;
23 E. association of women's health, obstetric and
24 neonatal nurses;
25 F. American psychiatric nurses association;

- 1 G. American association of neuroscience nurses;
2 H. society of gastroenterology nurses and
3 associates;
4 I. American society of perianesthesia nurses;
5 J. rural institutional health care providers; and
6 K. hospitals in New Mexico; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health
8 report to the legislative finance committee and the
9 legislative health and human services committee on the number
10 of hospitals that adopt standards relating to nurse-to-patient
11 ratios; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health
13 include in its report the cost of implementing an oversight
14 program that evaluates the outcomes from hospitals that do and
15 do not implement the suggested standards; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health
17 determine and report the cost of implementing an annual review
18 of nurse-to-patient ratios in New Mexico; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
20 transmitted to the secretary of health.

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Ben Lujan

BEN LUJAN, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Stephen R. Arias

STEPHEN R. ARIAS, CHIEF CLERK
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES