

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 1194

(Delegate White Holland, *et al.*)

Health and Government Operations

Finance

Hospitals - Patient's Bill of Rights Training and Clinical Staffing Committees and Plans (Safe Staffing Act of 2024)

This bill requires each hospital, by January 1, 2025, to establish and maintain a clinical staffing committee that has equal membership from management and employees. By July 1, 2025, each clinical staffing committee must develop a clinical staffing plan that establishes the appropriate number of clinicians needed to administer quality health care by setting. By July 1 each year, each clinical staffing committee must conduct a review of the clinical staffing plan to evaluate the effectiveness of the plan during the immediately preceding year and update the plan to ensure that it continues to be appropriate and effective. A hospital must provide its clinical staffing plan on request. The bill does not apply to State hospitals.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill does not directly affect governmental finances or operations.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: When developing a clinical staffing plan, the clinical staffing committee must establish, based on the patient population of the hospital (1) suggested guidelines or ratios, matrices, or grids indicating how many patients should be assigned to each registered nurse (RN) by unit or setting and (2) the number of RNs, licensed practical nurses, certified nursing assistants, certified medicine technicians, environmental service

workers, and ancillary members of the direct care team that should be present on each unit during each shift. To the extent practicable, the guidelines must be based on national evidence-based standards.

Each administrator of a hospital must provide annual training to all patient care staff members to ensure the staff's knowledge and understanding of the patient's bill of rights through training provided by staff members or by contracting with a third party.

Current Law: "Hospital" means an institution that (1) has a group of at least five physicians who are organized as medical staff for the institution; (2) maintains facilities to provide, under the supervision of medical staff, diagnostic and treatment services for two or more unrelated individuals; and (3) admits or retains the individuals for overnight care.

Chapters 285 and 286 of 2019 established the patient's bill of rights to promote health, safety, and well-being of patients and to foster better communication between patients and health care providers. A hospital administrator must (1) provide each patient (including inpatient, outpatient, and emergency services) with a written copy of the hospital's patient's bill of rights and (2) provide annual training to all patient care staff members to ensure the staff's knowledge and understanding of the patient's bill of rights. The Office of Health Care Quality monitors the compliance of each hospital with the patient's bill or rights requirements.

Health Services Cost Review Commission

The Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) is an independent commission within the Maryland Department of Health charged with constraining hospital growth and establishing hospital rates to promote cost containment, access to care, equity, financial stability, and hospital accountability. HSCRC oversees acute and chronic care hospitals. HSCRC is responsible for implementing the Maryland Total Cost of Care model, the successor to the Maryland All-Payer Model Contract, under which it regulates hospital population-based revenues (commonly referred to as global budgets).

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: SB 1020 (Senator A. Washington) - Finance.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 12, 2024
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