

Committee: _____

RESOLUTION
Nursing Home Staffing

A RESOLUTION TO: require nursing homes in the State of Texas to provide an adequate number of nurses and nurse’s aides to meet the needs of all nursing home residents.

WHEREAS: Staffing in nursing homes has been consistently linked to the quality of care; and,

WHEREAS: A 2002 Dept. of Health and Human Services Report to Congress identified a minimum of 4.1 hours of direct care per resident per day should be required of all nursing facilities and that staffing below that level compromised quality of care and often resulted in costly and dangerous outcomes such as pressure sores, infections, and avoidable hospitalizations; and,

WHEREAS: The National Academy of Sciences Institute on Medicine issued a report in Nov. 2003 warning the negative effects of understaffing and nurse fatigue on resident safety and specified minimum standards for registered and license nurse staffing in nursing homes; and,

WHEREAS: More than 90% of Texas nursing homes are understaffed and do not provide an adequate number of employees to render adequate personal and health care services; and

WHEREAS: Other licensed care providers in Texas have maximum care provider to recipient ratios, including day care centers and State schools; now, therefore be it,

RESOLVED: That the 10th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature encourage and strongly recommend that the 79th Texas Legislature implement contract provisions for all nursing facilities collecting Medicaid payments in the State of Texas to maintain minimum staffing ratios necessary for adequate care including:

- A. At least one nurse aid for each eight (8) residents during day and evening shifts, and at least one nurse aid for each twelve (12) residents during the night shift;
- B. Certified nurses aides must provide a minimum of 2.4 hours of care per resident per day and LVNs and/or registered nurses must provide 1.3 hours of care per resident per day of which .55 is performed by the registered nurse.

PASSED AND APPROVED this ____ day of September, 2004, by

the _____ Committee,

Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED this ____ day of September, 2004, by

by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

Speaker

ATTEST:

Secretary