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SENATE BILL 727

42ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 1996

INTRODUCED BY

MICHAEL S. SANCHEZ

AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH; ESTABLISHING A MINIMUM NUMBER OF CONTACT HOURS
FOR A PATIENT IN A HEALTH FACILITY; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. A new section of the Public Health Act is enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] PATIENT TO STAFF RATIO ESTABLISHED.--

A. The department of health shall establish regulations providing that a health facility shall maintain sufficient staff to ensure that each patient receives at least five contact hours of care in each twenty-four-hour period.

B. As used in this section:

(1) "contact hour" means the total amount of time spent by staff in one twenty-four-hour period with each patient in a health facility;

(2) "health facility" means any nursing home, intermediate care facility or rehabilitation center that has been inspected and licensed by the department, that has received certification for participation in federal reimbursement programs and that has been fully accredited by the joint commission on accreditation of health care organization or the

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American osteopathic association; and

(3) "staff member" means a primary care physician, licensed dietician, licensed practical nurse, physical therapist, occupational therapist, registered nurse or nurse's aide."

Section 2. A new section of the Public Health Act is enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] STATE MATCH.--The state shall provide fifty percent of the necessary funding to ensure compliance with the minimal requirement for patient contact hours established in Section 1 of this act through fiscal year 1999. Beginning in fiscal year 2000, each health facility shall be financially responsible for its own compliance."

Section 3. APPROPRIATION.--Five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the department of health for expenditure in fiscal years 1997 and 1998 for the purpose of hiring additional staff necessary to comply with the minimal requirement for patient contact hours established in Section 1 of this act. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 1998 shall revert to the general fund.

1 **FORTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE**
2 **SECOND SESSION, 1996**
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5 FEBRUARY 1, 1996
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7 Mr. President:
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9 Your **COMMITTEES' COMMITTEE**, to whom has been referred
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11 **SENATE BILL 727**
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14 has had it under consideration and finds same to be **GERMANE**, PURSUANT TO
15 CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS, and thence referred to the **PUBLIC AFFAIRS**
16 **COMMITTEE**.
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18 Respectfully submitted,
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24 **SENATOR MANNY M. ARAGON, Chairman**
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Adopted _____ Not Adopted _____

~~Underscored material = new~~
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(Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

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