**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 44‑7‑262, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO NURSING HOME STAFFING REQUIREMENTS, SO AS TO INCREASE THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF STAFF WHO PROVIDE NURSING CARE REQUIRED DURING ALL SHIFTS.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Section 44‑7‑262 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 44‑7‑262. (A) As a condition of licensure, in addition to the number of licensed nursing personnel required by R61‑17, or any other regulation, a nursing home must provide at a minimum ~~these~~ a resident‑staff ~~ratios~~ ratio for staff who provide nursing care of one for every nine residents during all shifts~~:~~

~~(1) 9 to 1 for shift 1;~~

~~(2) 13 to 1 for shift 2;~~

~~(3) 22 to 1 for shift 3.~~

~~In those facilities utilizing two twelve‑hour shifts, the staffing ratios for shift one apply to the twelve‑hour shift occurring primarily during the day, and the staffing ratios for shift three apply to the twelve‑hour shift occurring primarily during the night.~~

~~(B) For purposes of this section:~~

~~(1) "Shift 1" means a work shift that occurs primarily during the daytime hours including, but not limited to, a 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. shift;~~

~~(2) "Shift 2" means a work shift that generally includes both daytime and evening hours including, but not limited to, a 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. shift;~~

~~(3) "Shift 3" means a work shift that occurs primarily during the nighttime hours including, but not limited to, an 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. shift~~.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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