



TOWNSHIP OF WINFIELD RESOLUTION #23-66
COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
IN SUPPORT OF ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 4536 AND SENATE BILL NO. 304
TO ESTABLISH MINIMUM REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL NURSE STAFFING
STANDARDS AND PRACTICES AT NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill No. 4536 and Senate Bill No. 304 would establish minimum registered professional nurse staffing standards for hospitals and ambulatory surgery facilities and certain DHS facilities.

WHEREAS, because of recent changes in the health care delivery system, patients in general and special hospitals and ambulatory surgery facilities in the State, and in State developmental centers and psychiatric hospitals, generally have higher acuity levels than in the past;

WHEREAS, recent studies demonstrate the link between adequate registered professional nurse staffing and improved mortality rates and quality of care among patients in health care facilities.

WHEREAS, inadequate nurse staffing can result in dangerous medical errors, patient infections, and increased injuries to patients and caregivers.

WHEREAS, inadequate and poorly monitored nurse staffing practices jeopardize the delivery of health care services and adversely impact the health of patients.

WHEREAS, the establishment of staffing standards for registered professional nurses in hospitals, ambulatory surgery facilities, and State developmental centers and psychiatric hospitals should not be construed as justifying understaffing with respect to other critical health care workers; safe staffing practices recognize the importance of all health care workers in providing quality patient care because the availability of these other health care workers enables registered professional nurses to focus on the nursing care functions that only these nurses, by law, are permitted to perform; and

WHEREAS, understaffing at hospitals, ambulatory surgery facilities, and State developmental centers and psychiatric hospitals has been demonstrated to be an underlying cause of the current nursing shortage, because higher patient assignments create higher levels of job dissatisfaction, burnout, and turnover rates among nurses.

WHEREAS, in addition to staffing requirements provided by law or regulation on the effective date of this act, the Commissioner of Health shall adopt regulations that provide minimum direct care registered professional nurse-to-patient staffing ratios for all patient units in general and special hospitals, State psychiatric hospitals, and ambulatory surgical facilities in accordance with the requirements of this act. The regulations shall not decrease any nurse-to-patient staffing ratios in effect on the effective date of this act.

WHEREAS, the regulations adopted pursuant to this section shall, at a minimum, provide for the following nurse-to-patient ratios:

- (1) one registered professional nurse for every five patients on a medical/surgical unit;
- (2) one registered professional nurse for every four patients in a step down, telemetry, or intermediate care unit;
- (3) one registered professional nurse for every four patients in an emergency department, one registered professional nurse for every two patients in a critical care service of an emergency department, and one registered professional nurse for every patient in a trauma service of an emergency department;




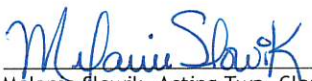
- (4) one registered professional nurse for every five patients in a behavioral health or psychiatric unit;
- (5) one registered professional nurse for every two patients in a critical care, intensive care, neonatal, or burn unit;
- (6) one registered professional nurse for every patient under anesthesia in an operating room, and one registered professional nurse for every two post-anesthesia patients in a recovery room or post-anesthesia care unit;
- (7) one registered professional nurse for every two patients in a labor and delivery unit; one registered professional nurse for every four patients, including infants, in a postpartum unit in which the mother and infant share the same room; and one registered professional nurse for every six patients in a mothers-only unit; and
- (8) one registered professional nurse for every four patients in a pediatric or intermediate care nursery unit, and one registered professional nurse for every six patients in a well-baby nursery.

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Winfield to urge State lawmakers to adopt Assembly Bill No. 4536/Senate Bill No. S304, which would establish minimum registered professional nurse staffing standards for hospitals and ambulatory surgery facilities and certain DHS facilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Winfield as follows:

1. The Township Committee of the Township of Winfield hereby urges its elected representatives in the New Jersey State Legislature to adopt Assembly Bill No. 4536/Senate Bill No. S304.
2. A copy of this Resolution upon its adoption shall also be furnished to the Governor of the State of New Jersey.

Dated: December 18, 2023

	MOVED	SECONDED	AYES	NAYS	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	
			X				I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Winfield at a meeting held on December 18, 2023.  Melanie Slowik, Acting Twp. Clerk
MAYOR ADAM D. KOOMER			X				
COMM. JOSEPH P. BYRNE	x		X				
COMM. ROBERT F. REILLY		x	X				