

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 920 Session of  
2014

---

INTRODUCED BY GINGRICH, COHEN, CALTAGIRONE, PICKETT, AUMENT,  
THOMAS, VEREB, V. BROWN, D. COSTA, MUSTIO, MILLARD, READSHAW,  
M. K. KELLER, BOBACK, HELM, SWANGER, DENLINGER, B. BOYLE,  
MENTZER, HARPER, SAYLOR, HARHART, WATSON, ADOLPH, KULA,  
BROOKS, GROVE, MILNE, MURT AND FRANKEL, JUNE 24, 2014

---

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, JUNE 24, 2014

---

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to study the  
2 issue of professional bedside nurse staffing; and to report  
3 to the House of Representatives with its findings and  
4 recommendations to implement potential changes in State laws,  
5 practices, policies and procedures relating to safe nurse  
6 staffing.

7 WHEREAS, Recent reports describe an association between  
8 staffing reductions and unsafe levels of staffing and higher  
9 rates of adverse outcomes for patients; and

10 WHEREAS, The odds of a professional bedside nurse making an  
11 error during a shift of 12.5 hours or more are three times  
12 greater than during a shift of 8.5 hours or less; and

13 WHEREAS, Professional bedside nurse staffing levels are the  
14 average number of patients under the license of a single non-  
15 supervisory professional bedside nurse at any given time, over a  
16 single shift in a given hospital; therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission study  
18 recent reports of serious adverse events in hospitals and the

1 connection these adverse events have to professional bedside  
2 nurse staffing; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission study  
4 demographics and length of stay for professional bedside nurses;  
5 and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission study  
7 lengths of shifts and overtime requirements for professional  
8 bedside nurses, per unit; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission study  
10 professional bedside nurse staffing levels that are implemented  
11 on a regular and consistent basis in a variety of hospitals in  
12 this Commonwealth, reviewed over differing shifts and across all  
13 hospital units; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the final report include recommendations to  
15 implement potential changes in State laws, practices, policies  
16 and procedures relating to professional nurse staffing; and be  
17 it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission issue  
19 the report to the House of Representatives with its findings and  
20 recommendations no later than six months after adoption of this  
21 resolution.