

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

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Legislative Document

No. 1106

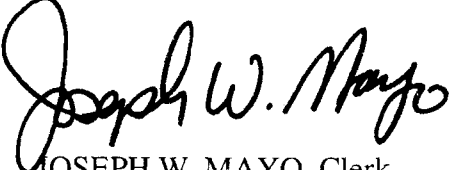
H.P. 783

House of Representatives, February 9, 1999

**An Act to Establish Ratios of Direct-care Providers to Nursing Home Residents.**

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Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

  
JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative SAXL of Bangor.  
Cosponsored by Senator GOLDTHWAIT of Hancock and  
Representatives: BRAGDON of Bangor, FULLER of Manchester, Senators: PENDLETON of  
Cumberland, PINGREE of Knox.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

4 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §1812-C, sub-§8 is enacted to read:**

6 8. Ratios: nursing staff to patients. The department shall  
8 establish the following specific ratios of direct-care nursing  
10 staff to patients in nursing homes:

12 A. Day shift: one direct-care nursing staff member for  
14 every 6 patients;

16 B. Evening shift: one direct-care nursing staff member for  
18 every 10 patients; and

20 C. Night shift: one direct-care nursing staff member for  
22 every 15 patients.

24 An employer may not count a licensed staff member, such as a  
26 licensed practical nurse or a registered nurse, in the ratio of  
28 direct-care nursing staff to patients unless that licensed staff  
member has a direct-care assignment.

#### SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Human Services to establish specific ratios of direct-care nursing staff to patients in nursing homes.