



General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
**Joint State Government Commission**  
Room 108 Finance Building, 613 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
717-787-4397

Released: June 2015

---

***Summary of the Staff Report in Response to  
House Resolution No. 920 of 2014***

---

**Professional Bedside Nurses in Pennsylvania:  
A Staff Study**

House Resolution No. 920 of 2014 directed the Joint State Government Commission (JSGC) to conduct a staff study on the staffing levels of professional bedside nurses in Pennsylvania hospitals.

The findings of the report were to include the following: recent reports of serious adverse events in hospitals and the connection these adverse events have to professional bedside nurse staffing; demographics and length of stay; lengths of shifts and overtime requirements; staffing levels that are implemented on a regular and consistent basis in a variety of hospitals in this Commonwealth, reviewed over differing shifts and across all hospital units; and recommendations to implement potential changes in State laws, practices, policies and procedures relating to professional nurse staffing. The resolution directed the JSGC to study nurse staffing and its connection to adverse events, not all factors that contribute to adverse events.

The report describes the following: an association between nurse staffing levels, and the conditions in which they work, with adverse outcomes for patients; demographics of Pennsylvania's nurse workforce; length of stay for Pennsylvania nurses; and lengths of shifts and overtime requirements.

The report compiles as much data available on Pennsylvania nurse staffing levels implemented in a variety of hospitals in this Commonwealth, reviewed over differing shifts and across all hospital units. The report concludes with statistical based recommendations for potential changes in State laws, practices, policies, and procedures relating to professional nurse staffing.

**The full report is available on our website, <http://jsg.legis.state.pa.us/>**