

Senate Bill 417

By: Senators Unterman of the 45th, Stephens of the 51st, Balfour of the 9th and Thomas of the 54th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 7 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to regulation of hospitals and related institutions, so as to require that at least one
3 registered nurse shall be in charge of all nursing activities during each eight-hour shift in
4 nursing homes; to provide that there shall be sufficient nursing staff on duty at all times to
5 provide care for nursing home patients; to provide for certain minimum staffing; to provide
6 for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Article 1 of Chapter 7 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
10 regulation of hospitals and related institutions, is amended by adding a new Code Section
11 31-7-17 to read as follows:

12 "31-7-17.

13 (a) In every nursing home in this state, there shall be at least one registered nurse on duty
14 and in charge of all nursing activities during each eight-hour shift.

15 (b) In every nursing home in this state, there shall be sufficient nursing staff on duty at all
16 times to provide care for each patient according to the patient's needs. In any event, a
17 minimum of 3.0 hours of direct nursing care per patient in a 24 hour period must be
18 provided."

19 **SECTION 2.**

20 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.