



*Written Testimony before the Aging Committee
Submitted by the Department of Social Services
February 19, 2019*

**HB 7099 - AN ACT INCREASING THE MINIMUM RATIO OF DIRECT CARE STAFF
IN NURSING HOMES**

This bill requires chronic and convalescent nursing homes (CCNH) to maintain minimum nursing staff ratios of at least 3 hours of direct care per resident per day. Because the Department of Public Health is the lead agency responsible for the oversight of care provided at nursing homes, the Department of Social Services (DSS) is unable to directly comment on the appropriateness of the proposed staffing levels.

DSS, however, has concerns related to the accuracy and stability of the data that would be used to identify non-compliance of the proposed requirements and which would be used to calculate nursing home rate increases to support the additional staffing requirements. A well-defined measurement of current staffing levels would be required to accurately estimate the fiscal impact of a change in the minimum staffing levels.

In light of these reasons, the Department is not able to support this bill.