

YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

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Senate Bill Number 145

Legislative Action:

Introduced by: Cassie Robinson  
Authored by: Cassie Robinson

House Committee: \_\_\_\_\_  
House: \_\_\_\_\_  
Senate Committee: \_\_\_\_\_  
Senate: \_\_\_\_\_  
Governor: \_\_\_\_\_

Delegation: SW Montana Family YMCA

Referred to Committee: Senate Health & Human Services Committee

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1 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "A BILL LIMITING THE RATIO BETWEEN PATIENT  
2 AND STAFF IN ALL HOSPITALS IN THE STATE OF MONTANA."

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4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE MONTANA YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE:

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6 **Section 1:** This bill limits the ratio of patients and nursing staff in hospitals in the state of  
7 Montana.

8 **Section 2:** Definition: Med-surge; Floor in which the people on this floor have general medical  
9 surgical problems, and condition is usually stable. The designated ratio for all general med-surge  
10 floors is 5:1(five patients to one nurse) during the hours of 0600-1800 and 6:1(six patients to one  
11 nurse) during the hours of 1800-0600.

12 **Section 3:** Definition: ICU (Intensive Care Unit); Patients placed in ICU generally have a  
13 critical condition and require much attention and assistance. The designated ratio for ICU is  
14 2:1(two patients to one nurse).

15 **Section 4:** Definition: OB (Obstetrics); Floor in which all patients have conditions related to  
16 childbirth. The designated ratio is 2:1(two patients to one nurse).

17 **Section 5:** Definition: Surgical/Orthopedic/Other specialized Floors; Floors containing patients  
18 recovering from surgery, fractures, or any other diagnosis not covered in previous sections and  
19 having a stable, or semi-stable condition. The designated ratio for these specific floors is  
20 5:1(five patients to one nurse).

21 **Section 6:** Definition: ER (Emergency Room); Area of a hospital equipped for promptly  
22 treating illness, trauma, and other medical emergencies. Upon arrival and evaluation of the  
23 patient, the nurse on duty will designate a condition (critical, stable, etc.) to the patient according  
24 to the diagnosis and need of the patient. For all patients whose condition is designated at critical  
25 is 1:1, and all those who have a stable condition are 3:1.

26 **Section 7:** This policy will be added to the Department of Health's annual review and any non  
27 compliance will be handled as all other health code violations in the state would be, following  
28 the Departments policy already in effect.

29 **Sections 8:** This policy will take effect immediately upon passage and will first appear on the  
30 annual review in 2008.

31 **Section 9:** Fiscal Note: No additional funding will be needed.

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