

~~(E) (1) THE STAFFING REQUIREMENTS UNDER THIS SECTION ARE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS AND MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO LIMIT THE ABILITY OF THE NURSING HOME TO EMPLOY ADDITIONAL STAFF.~~

~~(2) FOR A NURSING HOME OR GROUP OF NURSING HOMES, THE DEPARTMENT MAY INCREASE THE MINIMUM STAFF RATIO TO ADDRESS RESIDENT ACUITY LEVELS.~~

~~(3) THE SECRETARY SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF STAFFING REQUIREMENTS ABOVE THE MINIMUM LEVELS REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION.~~

~~(F) FOR ANY NURSING HOME WITH A CURRENT MARYLAND LICENSE ON OCTOBER 1, 2000, THE NURSING HOME MUST PROVIDE CERTIFICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT THAT THE MINIMUM STAFFING REQUIREMENTS WILL BE MET AS OF APRIL 1, 2002.~~

~~(G) FOR ANY NURSING HOME APPLYING FOR A NEW MARYLAND LICENSE ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 1, 2000, THE NURSING HOME SHALL PROVIDE CERTIFICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT THAT THE MINIMUM STAFFING REQUIREMENTS WILL BE MET NO LATER THAN JANUARY 1, 2001.~~

~~19-1411-~~

~~(A) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.~~

~~(1) "LICENSED PERSONNEL" MEANS:~~

~~(I) A REGISTERED NURSE WHO IS LICENSED TO PRACTICE IN THE STATE; OR~~

~~(H) A PRACTICAL NURSE WHO IS LICENSED TO PRACTICE IN THE STATE.~~

~~(2) "UNLICENSED PERSONNEL" MEANS A CERTIFIED NURSE ASSISTANT, NURSE AIDE, CERTIFIED MEDICATION AIDE, OR OTHER NURSING HOME EMPLOYEE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE DIRECT NURSING CARE TO NURSING HOME RESIDENTS.~~

~~(B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL TAKE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION TO IMPROVE WORKING CONDITIONS AND INCREASE RETENTION OF NURSING HOME DIRECT CARE PERSONNEL. THIS ACTION SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, MODIFICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT'S MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT METHODOLOGY TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL MEDICAID FUNDS FOR:~~

~~(1) REIMBURSEMENT OF NURSING HOME STAFFING COSTS THAT ARE INCURRED UNDER § 19-1410 OF THIS SUBTITLE;~~

~~(2) THE REIMBURSEMENT OF TRAINING EXPENSES FOR LICENSED PERSONNEL AND UNLICENSED PERSONNEL; AND~~

~~(3) DIRECT REIMBURSEMENT TO NURSING HOMES TO INCREASE THE HOURLY WAGE OF CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANTS TO A MINIMUM OF \$2 PER HOUR.~~