

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Version:** First engrossment

**Authors:** Howes and others

**Subject:** Nurse overtime limits; license recognition for nurses from border states

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### Overview

This bill does two things. First, it requires the Board of Nursing to recognize nursing licenses issued from border states as valid to practice nursing in Minnesota. Second, it prohibits certain health care facilities from taking action against nurses who decline to work additional hours, if nurses so decline because working additional hours may jeopardize patient safety.

### Section

- 1 **License recognition for nurses from border states; reciprocity.** Adds subd. 2a to § 148.211. Requires the Board of Nursing to recognize a nursing license issued by a state bordering Minnesota as valid to practice nursing in Minnesota, as long as the border state's licensure standards are substantially the same as Minnesota's. Requires a nurse licensed in a border state to notify the Board of the nurse's intent to practice in Minnesota, and makes these nurses subject to Minnesota's laws and the Board's regulatory authority. Directs the Board to keep a list of nurses from border states practicing in Minnesota. Also, directs the Board to actively seek reciprocity of nurse licensure with border states.
- 2 **Regulating nurses' overtime.** Adds § 181.275. Prohibits hospitals and health care facilities from taking action against a nurse for declining to work additional hours, if the nurse so declines because working additional hours may jeopardize patient safety.
  - Subd. 1. Definitions.** Defines terms for this section: emergency, normal work period, nurse, and taking action against.
  - Subd. 2. Prohibited actions.** Prohibits hospitals and other health care facilities from taking action against a nurse solely because the nurse did not accept an assignment of additional consecutive hours at the facility more than the nurse's normal work period, if the nurse declines the assignment because working additional hours may jeopardize patient safety. Specifies that this prohibition does not apply to nursing homes, ICFs/MR, licensed boarding care facilities, and housing with services establishments.

**Subd. 3. Emergency.** Allows a nurse to be scheduled for duty or required to continue on duty for more than a normal work period in an emergency situation.

**Subd. 4. Exception.** Specifies that a violation of this section does not constitute a misdemeanor.