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Title: Nurse Staffing and Patient Safety
Introduced by: Amit Ghose, MD, for the Ingham County Delegation
Original Author: Amit Ghose, MD
Referred to: Reference Committee B
House Action: Disapproved.

Whereas, adequate staffing of nurses is imperative for patient safety in hospitals, and

Whereas, inadequate nurse staffing issues contributes to delays in timely and safe transfer of care to another hospital unit (such as emergency room to hospital floor, operating room to Surgical Intensive Care Unit (SICU), hospital floor to SICU, operating room to Post-Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU) or SICU), and

Whereas, implementation of the electronic health care record is likely to further increase demands on nursing staff and decrease the amount of time for patient care in the hospital setting, and

Whereas, nursing associations in other states, are calling for legislation to set a limit on how many patients may be assigned to hospital nurses¹; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS form a task force to examine nurse-staffing issues in hospital and their effect on patient safety.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE

¹ Minnesota Legislation Would Limit Number of Patients per Nurse," Minneapolis Star Tribune, February 29, 2012.