

HB 568 Talking Points Safe staffing standards.

- Having safe staffing standards protects patients.
- Having safe nurse staffing ratios in MT health care facilities creates an optimal care situation for the safety of both patients and nurses.
- Having lower nurse to patient ratios enables nurses to provide high quality patient care.
- Lower nurse to patient ratios helps prevent nurse burnout.
- Minimum nurse to patient ratios helps recruit and retain nurses.
- What happens if nurse-to-patient ratio is high?
- [High nurse-to-patient ratios](#), greater than 1:4, with each additional patient added, is associated with a **7% increase in hospital mortality** that could be caused by patient infections, bedsores, pneumonia, cardiac arrest, and accidental death.
- By allowing nurses to voluntarily take on extra shifts, this allows nurses who have the capacity to work longer or extra shifts to do so, and do so safely. This bill would eliminate mandatory overtime for nurses.
- Creating Nurse Staffing Committees will give hospital administrators better insight into staffing challenges and patient care issues on the ground. This bill gives hospitals more opportunities to collaborate with nurses to provide best standard of high-quality patient care.