

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure
Vote:	3 - 0 - 2
Yeas:	Gordly, Kruse, Monnes Anderson
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Carter, Courtney
Prepared By:	Shannon Strumpfer, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Measure requires health care employers to address issue of violence against employees who work in ambulatory surgical centers and hospitals. Requires adoption of a variety of prevention, mitigation and assessment programs; maintain incident records to be submitted to Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) by January 2009; and provides additional staff support and self defense rights for employees treating violent patients.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Interim research to include practice of patient dumping and home health care for February 2008 report

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: During the 2006 interim, the House Task Force on Nurse Workplace Violence held several hearings on the provisions of SB 572 (2005), relating to nurse workplace violence. The interim task force conducted work groups to address stakeholder concerns and to develop a bill that resembles the similar law enacted in Washington.

In building on SB 572 (2005), HB 2022 A includes all health care employees (not just nurses), and changes the incident reporting requirement from the Law Enforcement Data System to DCBS.

Other key provisions of the bill include: the requirement that health care employers assign a second staff member to accompany nurses that have been previously assaulted; establishes that nurses providing home health care services may refuse to treat a patient unless the member is equipped with a communication device that permits the nurse to call for help; and establishes that nurses can take “reasonably necessary” actions in self defense against violent patients; requires DCBS to analyze nurse workplace violence data provided by health care employers and to report findings to the 75th Legislative Assembly no later than April 30, 2009.