

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact

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**Action Date:** 05/20/15

**Action:** Do Pass The A-Eng Bill.

**Meeting Dates:** 05/20

**Vote:**

Yeas: 4 - Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Shields, Steiner Hayward

Exc: 1 - Knopp

**Prepared By:** Zena Rockowitz, Committee Administrator

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires hospitals to adopt written discharge policies. Modifies definition of lay caregiver. Specifies topics to be included in the discharge policy, that patient and lay caregiver are provided instruction or training prior to discharge, and that the hospital notify the lay caregiver of the patient's discharge. Specifies policy requirements.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Inclusion of best practices in hospital policies
- Strategy to reduce readmission rates in hospitals
- Emotional and physical challenges of caregiving and need for training, education and support
- Expanding role of caregiver in providing complex care

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Currently, about half of all family and other lay caregivers perform medical or nursing tasks such as wound care, medication management and injections for family members in a non-hospital environment. Most patients do not receive a home visit by a health care professional after being discharged from a hospital. House Bill 3378-A requires hospitals to adopt written discharge policies to help patients and their caregivers transition from the hospital to the home.