

By: Vo

H.B. No. 2219

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to a study on nurse-to-patient ratios for critical care
3 patients in health care facilities.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. (a) In this section:

6 (1) "Commission" means the Health and Human Services
7 Commission.

8 (2) "Critical care" means medical care for an
9 individual who has a life-threatening injury or illness.

10 (3) "Direct care registered nurse" means a registered
11 nurse licensed by the Texas Board of Nursing to engage in
12 professional nursing under Chapter 301, Occupations Code, who has
13 accepted a direct, hands-on patient care assignment to implement
14 medical and nursing regimens and provide related clinical
15 supervision of patient care.

16 (b) The commission, in consultation with the United States
17 Department of Health and Human Services, shall conduct a study to
18 evaluate the outcomes and efficacy of limiting the number of
19 patients whose severity of illness requires critical care at a
20 health care facility and who are assigned to a direct care
21 registered nurse at any given time.

22 (c) Not later than December 1, 2024, the commission shall
23 prepare and submit to the governor and the legislature a written
24 report containing the results of the study and any recommendations

1 for legislative or other action. The commission shall post the
2 report on the commission's Internet website.

3 SECTION 2. This Act expires September 1, 2025.

4 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
5 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
6 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
7 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
8 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.