

By Senator Wasserman Schultz

32-1059-02

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to nursing home facilities;
3 providing that the Agency for Health Care
4 Administration must require that a portion of a
5 nursing home facility's per diem be earmarked
6 for increases in the wages or benefits, or
7 both, of eligible staff members; defining the
8 terms "wage pass-through" and "eligible staff";
9 providing exclusions; providing criteria for
10 reimbursement; providing agency duties and
11 responsibilities; providing an effective date.

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13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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15 Section 1. Medicaid per diem for nursing homes;
16 portion to benefit staff.--

17 (1) The Agency for Health Care Administration shall
18 require that a portion of a nursing home facility's Medicaid
19 per diem be earmarked for increases in the wages or benefits,
20 or both, of the facility's staff. This earmarked portion,
21 which is to be known by the term "wage pass-through," must be
22 sufficient to provide for an increase in the amount of \$1 per
23 hour in wages or benefits, or both, for the facility's staff.

24 (2) The wage pass-through funds must be used by
25 facilities for wage increases or benefit improvements, or
26 both, for eligible staff. As used in this subsection, the term
27 "eligible staff" includes all employees of the nursing home
28 except the administrator and the director of nursing; however,
29 the term excludes agency, temporary, pool, or home-office
30 staff who are not directly employed by and assigned
31 exclusively to the facility. Wage or salary increases are

1 reimbursable; one-time bonuses are not. The wage pass-through
2 funds may be used to provide new or improved benefits for
3 staff but may not be used to defray the increased costs of
4 existing benefits such as increases in premiums for health
5 insurance.

6 (3) The agency shall develop systems for the
7 application and monitoring of the wage pass-through.

8 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

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SENATE SUMMARY

Provides that the Agency for Health Care Administration must require that a portion of a nursing home facility's Medicaid per diem be earmarked for increases in staff wages or benefits, or both. Defines the terms "wage pass-through" and "eligible staff." Provides exclusions. Provides reimbursement criteria. Requires the agency to develop systems for applying and monitoring the wage pass-through.