

By Senator Wasserman Schultz

34-756-03

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to nursing homes; requiring a
3 portion of nursing home Medicaid per diem funds
4 to be used to fund certain wage or benefit
5 increases; providing guidelines; requiring the
6 development of application and monitoring
7 systems; providing an effective date.

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

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11 Section 1. (1) The Agency for Health Care
12 Administration shall require that a portion of a nursing home
13 facility's Medicaid per diem be earmarked for increases in the
14 wages or benefits of the facility's staff. This earmarked
15 portion, known as "wage or benefit pass-through," must be
16 sufficient to provide for an increase of \$1 per hour in wages
17 or benefits for the facility's staff.

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19 (2) Wage or benefit pass-through funds must be used by
20 facilities for wage increases or benefit improvements for all
21 employees of the nursing home except the administrator and the
22 director of nursing. Agency, temporary, pool, or home office
23 staff who are not directly employed by and assigned
24 exclusively to the facility are not entitled to benefits under
25 this section. Wage or salary increases are reimbursable;
26 one-time bonuses are not. The wage or benefit pass-through
27 funds may be used to provide new or improved benefits or to
28 defray the costs to employees of benefits, such as lower
29 premiums for health insurance. Funds may not be used to defray
30 the increased costs to facilities of existing benefits such as
31 premium increases paid by facilities for health insurance.

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1 (3) The agency shall develop systems for the
2 application and monitoring of the wage or benefit
3 pass-through.

4 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.

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7 SENATE SUMMARY

8 Requires that a portion of nursing home Medicaid per diem
9 funds be used for certain wage or benefit increases for
 employees.

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