



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Department of Labor and Training

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Daniel J. McKee
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Matthew D. Weldon
Director

March 24, 2025

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan
Chair, House Health and Human Services Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chair Donovan,

I write today in regard to 2025 House Bill 5257 An Act Relating to Health and Safety – Nursing Home Workforce Standards Board Act, introduced by Representative Slater.

While the Department does not take a position on the substantive policy measures contained in this bill, I write to inform the committee of the Department's anticipated budgetary and staffing impacts associated with our role in administering many of the provisions of the bill.

Under this legislation, the Department is charged with overseeing the Nursing Home Workforce Standards Advisory Board. Based on the Department's experience with other advisory boards of similar scope, and in light of the importance and complexity of the subject matter the Board is tasked with addressing, we believe that the oversight and support functions assigned to the Department would require two full-time equivalent (FTE) positions. The Department's estimated cost associated with these two FTEs, inclusive of space, supplies, and indirect costs is \$550,000. Moreover, the Administration believes, the Board, as contemplated by the bill, is focused too narrowly and may not generate the comprehensive solutions to address the nursing home challenges the bill seeks.

The Department supports a strong, comprehensive approach to the challenges facing all aspects of the nursing home emergency that our state faces – a solution that addresses the needs of residents, employers, and workers, as well as ensuring the ongoing vitality of health facilities.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation and the FTE and budgetary requirements cited above. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Legislative Affairs Lead Keith Murray at keith.murray@dlr.ri.gov or (401) 462-8021.

Sincerely,

Matthew D. Weldon
Director

CC: Honorable Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee
The Honorable Scott A. Slater
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House