

Legislative
Assembly
of Ontario



Assemblée
législative
de l'Ontario

1ST SESSION, 44TH LEGISLATURE, ONTARIO
3 CHARLES III, 2025

Bill 19

An Act to amend the Health Protection and Promotion Act with respect to maximum patient-to-nurse ratios

Co-sponsors:
MPP F. Gélinas
MPP J. West

Private Members' Bill

1st Reading May 13, 2025

2nd Reading

3rd Reading

Royal Assent



**An Act to amend the Health Protection and Promotion Act
with respect to maximum patient-to-nurse ratios**

His Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, enacts as follows:

1 Part II of the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* is amended by adding the following section:

Maximum patient-to-nurse ratios

9.1 (1) The Ministry of Health shall ensure that the ratio of patients to nurses does not exceed the following:

1. A patient-to-nurse ratio of 1-to-1 for critical care patients on ventilators.
2. A patient-to-nurse ratio of 2-to-1 for,
 - i. critical care patients not on ventilators, and
 - ii. highly dependent patients who need mental health care.
3. A patient-to-nurse ratio of 3-to-1 for specialized care.
4. A patient-to-nurse ratio of 4-to-1 for inpatient and palliative care.
5. A patient-to-nurse ratio of 5-to-1 for rehabilitative care other than on night shifts.
6. A patient-to-nurse ratio of 7-to-1 for rehabilitative care on night shifts.

Same

(2) The mix of nurse practitioners, registered nurses and registered practical nurses shall be as prescribed by the regulations.

Commencement

2 This Act comes into force on the day that is 12 months after the day this Act receives Royal Assent.

Short title

3 The short title of this Act is the *Patient-to-Nurse Ratios for Hospitals Act, 2025*.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Bill amends the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* by adding a new section 9.1. Section 9.1 sets out maximum patient-to-nurse ratios that the Ministry of Health shall ensure are not exceeded.