

Bill Number: S. 750

Bill Sponsor: Sen. Fischer, Deb (R-NE)

Title of Bill: Protecting Rural Seniors' Access to Care Act

Current Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/750/text>

Status: February 26, 2025 - Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

Summary: To prohibit the Secretary of Health and Human Services from implementing, enforcing, or otherwise giving effect to a final rule regarding minimum staffing for nursing facilities, and to establish an advisory panel on the nursing home workforce.

P&A Committee Insights:

To prohibit the Secretary of Health and Human Services from implementing, enforcing, and taking into effect a final rule titled “Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Minimum Staffing Standards for Long-Term Care Facilities and Medicaid Institutional Payment Transparency Reporting,” published on 5/10/24, which requires an RN to be present 24/7 in nursing facilities. Due to staffing shortages, especially in rural and underserved areas, some nursing facilities may be forced to close. This bill aims to prevent that.

Advisory panel on nursing home workforce: Chair of the Panel (rep of the secretary), 2 RNs, 2 LPNs, two nurse aides, two physicians (all working in a nursing facility in a rural area), one rep. From the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, one rep of the Health Resources and Services Administration, two experts in the nursing home workforce, one licensed administrator of a rural non-profit skilled nursing facility, one licensed administrator of a rural for-profit skilled nursing facility, and two representatives from the state boards of nursing.

- Advisory Panel meetings are held quarterly after the panel is appointed, and then at least twice a year thereafter.
- May improve the nursing facilities workforce from the current state.
- It may prevent nursing facility closures due to strict staffing rules.

Position: Support

Priority: High

Subject: Nursing Workforce