



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Olympia, Washington 98504

**NOTICE OF ADOPTION
INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT**

Title of Interpretive Statement: Hospital Staffing Committees | CHS-01-17-24.

Issuing Entity: Department of Health

Subject Matter: Interpreting the requirements of RCW 70.41.420, which describes the establishment, composition, and responsibilities of hospital staffing committees.

Effective Date: January 1, 2024

Contact Person: Tiffani Buck, Hospital Program Manager/Nurse Advisor
Tiffani.Buck@doh.wa.gov

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: March 15, 2024

TIME: 1:35 PM

WSR 24-07-061

Department of Health
Office of Community Health Systems

Interpretive Statement

<i>Title:</i>	Hospital Staffing Committees	<i>Number:</i> CHS-01-17-24
<i>References:</i>	RCW 70.41.420 ; Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 5236 (chapter 114, Laws of 2023)	
<i>Contact:</i>	Tiffani Buck – Hospital Program Manager	
<i>Phone:</i>	564-233-1121	
<i>Email:</i>	Tiffani.Buck@doh.wa.gov	
<i>Effective Date:</i>	January 1, 2024	
<i>Supersedes:</i>	N/A	
<i>Approved By:</i>	Christie Spice, Policy Director	

Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill (E2SSB) 5236 (chapter 114, Laws of 2023) amended RCW 70.41.420, the statute regarding hospital staffing committees at acute care and state hospitals. The Department of Health (Department) interprets [RCW 70.41.420](#), which describes the establishment, composition, and responsibilities of hospital staffing committees, to require the following:

- Each hospital was required to form a hospital staffing committee by January 1, 2024, by creating a new committee or assigning the functions of the hospital staffing committee to an existing nurse staffing committee.
- The appointment of committee members is part of the process of establishing a committee, which the statute required by January 1, 2024.
- A hospital staffing committee must include at least 50% nursing staff, who must be nonsupervisory, nonmanagerial, and currently providing direct patient care.
- Nursing staff means registered nurses (RNs), licensed practical nurses (LPNs), nursing assistants-certified (NA-Cs), and unlicensed assistive nursing personnel providing direct patient care.
- The individual(s) appointing nursing staff to a hospital staffing committee determines the number of appointees from each type of nursing staff (RN, LPN, NA-C, unlicensed assistive nursing personnel). Appointees can be from one, some, or all of the above-mentioned nursing staff types.
- Nonsupervisory and nonmanagerial nursing staff are those staff who are not involved in overseeing, are not in charge of, do not manage, and do not look after and make decisions about other staff.
- If there is any collective bargaining representative representing any category of nursing staff at a hospital, then that representative (or representatives) selects all the nursing staff members of the hospital staffing committee that are selected to fulfill the 50% nursing requirement, even if there are some nursing staff employed by the hospital that are not represented by any collective

bargaining representative. The collective bargaining representative(s) may appoint non-represented nursing staff to the committee.

- The nursing staff members shall be selected jointly by all collective bargaining representatives if there are multiple collective bargaining representatives at a hospital.
- The nursing staff members of a hospital staffing committee shall be selected by their peers if there is no collective bargaining representative representing any category of nursing staff at the hospital.
- The hospital staffing committee may appoint as nonvoting members patient care staff other than nursing staff, physicians, physician assistants, and ARNPs not working as direct care RNs.

In summary, this statement describes the department's interpretation of RCW 70.41.420, as it relates to the establishment, composition, and responsibilities of hospital staffing committees. Additional information on hospital staffing committees, including Frequently Asked Questions, can be found on the following department website: [Hospital Staffing Advisory Committee | Washington State Department of Health](#).