

STATE OF NEW YORK

8874--A

IN ASSEMBLY

January 19, 2022

Introduced by M. of A. JOYNER, OTIS, DARLING -- read once and referred to the Committee on Labor -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the labor law, in relation to restrictions on consecutive hours of work for nurses

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Subdivisions 3 and 4 of section 167 of the labor law, as
2 added by chapter 493 of the laws of 2008, are amended to read as
3 follows:

4 3. The limitations provided for in this section shall not apply in the
5 case of:

6 a. a health care disaster, such as a natural or other type of disaster
7 that increases the need for health care personnel, unexpectedly affect-
8 ing the county in which the nurse is employed or in a contiguous county.

9 The limitations on mandatory overtime shall be reinstated at the end of
10 the health care disaster and shall not exceed three consecutive days; or

11 b. a federal, state or county declaration of emergency in effect in
12 the county in which the nurse is employed or in a contiguous county. The
13 limitations on mandatory overtime shall be reinstated at the end of the
14 declared emergency or after thirty consecutive days, whichever is short-
15 er, provided that, pursuant to section twenty-nine-a of the executive
16 law, nothing in this subdivision shall limit the power of the governor
17 to suspend the provisions of this subdivision while a federal, state, or
18 county declaration of emergency is in effect; or

19 c. where a health care employer determines there is an emergency,
20 necessary to provide safe patient care, in which case the health care
21 provider shall, before requiring an on-duty employee to remain, make a
22 good faith effort to have overtime covered on a voluntary basis, includ-
23 ing, but not limited to, calling per diems, agency nurses, assigning
24 floats, or requesting an additional day of work from off-duty employees,
25 to the extent such staffing options exist. For the purposes of this
26 paragraph, "emergency", including an unanticipated staffing emergency,
27 is defined as an unforeseen event that could not be prudently planned

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 for by an employer [~~and~~], does not regularly occur, and does not include
2 routine nurse staffing needs that arose due to typical staffing
3 patterns, typical levels of absenteeism, and time off typically approved
4 by the employer for vacations, holidays, sick leave, and personal leave;
5 or

6 d. an ongoing medical or surgical procedure in which the nurse is
7 actively engaged and whose continued presence through the completion of
8 the procedure is needed to ensure the health and safety of the patient.

9 4. The department shall assess an employer a civil penalty of not more
10 than one thousand dollars for a first violation within three years, no
11 more than two thousand five hundred dollars for a second violation with-
12 in three years, and no more than five thousand dollars for a third or
13 subsequent violation within three years where an employer requires a
14 nurse to work more than such nurse's regularly scheduled work hours;
15 provided, further, that the employee shall receive an additional fifteen
16 percent of the overtime payment from the employer for each violation.

17 5. The provisions of this section are intended as a remedial measure
18 to protect the public health and the quality of patient care, and shall
19 not be construed to diminish or waive any rights of any nurse pursuant
20 to any other law, regulation, or collective bargaining agreement.

21 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.