

## 1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to direct the Joint Commission on Health Care to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the quality*  
3 *of care, resident safety, and operational practices of nursing facilities in the Commonwealth.*

4 [H 1357]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

7 **1. § 1.** *That the Joint Commission on Health Care (the Joint Commission) shall conduct a comprehensive*  
8 *assessment of the quality of care, resident safety, and operational practices of nursing facilities in the*  
9 *Commonwealth. In conducting such assessment, the Joint Commission shall (i) examine nursing facilities*  
10 *licensed by the Virginia Department of Health and nursing facilities certified to participate in Medicaid or*  
11 *Medicare; (ii) conduct a statewide study and make recommendations to improve nursing facility quality,*  
12 *safety, transparency, accountability, and resident experience; and (iii) evaluate (a) quality and safety*  
13 *outcomes, including trends in preventable harms, avoidable hospitalizations, infection prevention and*  
14 *control, medication management, and management of other adverse events; (b) staffing levels and stability,*  
15 *including staffing patterns by shift, turnover and vacancy rates, use of agency staffing, training, competency,*  
16 *and supervision, and the relationship between staffing and resident outcomes; (c) complaint, survey, and*  
17 *enforcement systems, including the timeliness and effectiveness of inspections, complaint response,*  
18 *corrective action plans, sanctions, and repeat deficiencies; (d) resident rights and protections, including*  
19 *rights related to admissions and discharge practices, involuntary transfers and discharges, grievance*  
20 *procedures, family communication, and access to ombudsman services; (e) care coordination and*  
21 *transitions, including coordination with hospitals and community providers and discharge planning*  
22 *practices; (f) ownership and operational models and practices, including ownership structures, related-*  
23 *party transactions, management agreements, real estate arrangements, and transparency of controlling*  
24 *interests, and how such practices affect staffing and quality; (g) financial and payment policy, including*  
25 *Medicaid reimbursement structure, the extent to which payments support direct care, and opportunities to*  
26 *align payment with quality outcomes; (h) emergency preparedness and continuity of operations, including*  
27 *outbreak response, staffing surge capacity, and readiness for severe weather and power disruptions; (i) data*  
28 *reporting and transparency, including public access to facility performance information and the availability*  
29 *of understandable information for residents and families; and (j) disparities in quality and access, including*  
30 *differences across regions and resident populations. The Joint Commission on Health Care shall report its*  
31 *findings and recommendations from its study to the Governor and the Chairs of the House Committees on*  
32 *Appropriations and Health and Human Services and the Senate Committees on Finance and Appropriations*  
33 *and Education and Health by December 1, 2027.*