



HOSPITAL STAFFING COMMITTEES
Working Together for Patient Care

What is Washington's Hospital Staffing Law?

Washington State's new hospital staffing law – Senate Bill 5236 – is a commitment to supporting the well-being of both patients and hospital workforces. A direct result of collaboration between Washington State hospitals and health care unions, **SB 5236 strengthens existing staffing laws to uphold the highest patient care and worker safety standards** in urban and rural settings.



Patients and Health Care Workers Benefit from Collaborative Staffing Committees

- Effective hospital staffing plans will ensure patients retain access to high-quality, safe, reliable, and effective care.



Compliance and Accountability Measures Safeguard Quality Working Conditions for Health Care Workers

- SB 5236 ensures hospitals adopt a policy regarding compliance with the staffing plan and gives the Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) a greater role in investigating complaints alongside the Department of Health (DOH).
- The law **expands uninterrupted meal and rest break requirements** to all staff paid hourly or covered by a collective bargaining agreement who are involved in direct patient care or clinical services and requires hospitals to provide quarterly reports on their compliance rate.



Innovative Staffing Solutions Protect Quality Care

- Washington hospitals are committed to exploring and implementing innovative care delivery models and new staffing solutions, including recruitment, retention, workflow improvements, supportive technology, and technology, and any other methods that help strengthen the delivery of quality care.



To learn more, visit
[TogetherForPatientCareWA.com](https://www.togetherforpatientcarewa.com)

A project of Washington State Hospital Association (WSHA).

