



## Support SB3897 (Sen. Fine)

**SB3897** Provides an accurate depiction of direct care services within skilled nursing facilities by including the roll of Resident Attendants within the list of direct care staff.

**Background:** Resident Attendants (RA) are direct care workers within Skilled Nursing facilities who assist a resident with eating, drinking, personal hygiene and trained in safety and resident rights as well as specific instruction from nurses or dietitians for each resident. The Department of Public Health approves each RA training program submitted by the facility individually.

The roll of a RA goes beyond the specific skills that they are trained in. They are with the resident morning, afternoon, and evenings, helping the resident with the above tasks while interacting and helping the resident feel like they are in their home, which has an impact on the resident's quality of life.

Currently the following staff are included in computing staff to resident ratios

- registered nurses
- licensed practical nurses
- certified nurse assistants
- psychiatric services rehabilitation aides
- rehabilitation and therapy aides
- psychiatric services rehabilitation coordinators
- assistant directors of nursing
- 50% of the Director of Nurses' time
- 30% of the Social Services Directors' time

### **In the bill:**

For the purpose of computing staff to resident ratios, "Resident Attendant" is added to the list of direct care staff.

**Vote Yes to SB3897**