

This Document can be made available  
in alternative formats upon request

State of Minnesota  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

**H. F. No. 1824**

03/12/2015 Authored by Liebling, Pierson, Quam and Norton

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care Policy

03/19/2015 Adoption of Report: Amended and re-referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services Finance

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to human services; modifying nursing facility operating payment rates  
1.3 for certain facilities; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 256B.434, by  
1.4 adding a subdivision.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 256B.434, is amended by adding a  
1.7 subdivision to read:

1.8 Subd. 19c. **Rate increase for facilities in Rochester and surrounding area.** (a)  
1.9 Effective October 1, 2015, the operating payment rates of nursing facilities located in the  
1.10 city of Rochester or within 30 miles of the city of Rochester that are reimbursed under  
1.11 this section, section 256B.431, or section 256B.441, shall be increased to be equal, for a  
1.12 resource utilization group rate with a weight of 1.00, to the peer group one median rate  
1.13 for the same resource utilization group weight. The calculations under this subdivision  
1.14 shall be added to the rates before any other operating payment rate adjustments effective  
1.15 on October 1, 2015, are computed. The percentage of the operating payment rates to  
1.16 be case-mix adjusted shall be equal to the percentage that is case-mix adjusted in the  
1.17 September 30, 2015, operating payment rates. This subdivision shall only apply to an  
1.18 individual facility if it results in a rate increase for that facility.

1.19 (b) One hundred percent of the money resulting from the rate adjustment under  
1.20 paragraph (a) must be used for increases in compensation-related costs for employees  
1.21 directly employed by the nursing facility on or after the effective date of the rate  
1.22 adjustment, except:

1.23 (1) the administrator;

2.1 (2) persons employed in the central office of a corporation that has an ownership  
2.2 interest in the nursing facility or exercises control over the nursing facility; and

2.3 (3) persons paid by the nursing facility under a management contract.

2.4 (c) The commissioner shall allow as compensation-related costs all costs for:

2.5 (1) wage and salary increases effective after May 25, 2015;

2.6 (2) the employer's share of FICA taxes, Medicare taxes, state and federal  
2.7 unemployment taxes, and workers' compensation;

2.8 (3) the employer's share of health and dental insurance, life insurance, disability  
2.9 insurance, long-term care insurance, uniform allowance, and pensions; and

2.10 (4) other benefits provided and workforce needs, including the recruiting and  
2.11 training of employees, subject to the approval of the commissioner.

2.12 (d) The portion of the rate adjustment under paragraph (a) that is not subject to the  
2.13 requirements of paragraph (b) shall be provided to nursing facilities effective October 1,  
2.14 2015. Nursing facilities may apply for the portion of the rate adjustment under paragraph  
2.15 (a) that is subject to the requirements of paragraph (b). The application must be submitted  
2.16 to the commissioner within six months of the effective date of the rate adjustment, and  
2.17 the nursing facility must provide additional information required by the commissioner  
2.18 within nine months of the effective date of the rate adjustment. The commissioner must  
2.19 respond to all applications within three weeks of receipt. The commissioner may waive  
2.20 the deadlines in the paragraph under extraordinary circumstances, to be determined at the  
2.21 sole discretion of the commissioner. The application must contain:

2.22 (1) an estimate of the amounts of money that must be used as specified in paragraph  
2.23 (b);

2.24 (2) a detailed distribution plan specifying the allowable compensation-related  
2.25 increases the nursing facility will implement to use the funds available in clause (1);

2.26 (3) a description of how the nursing facility will notify eligible employees of  
2.27 the contents of the approved application, which must provide for giving each eligible  
2.28 employee a copy of the approved application, excluding the information required in clause  
2.29 (1), or posting a copy of the approved application, excluding the information required in  
2.30 clause (1), for a period of at least six weeks in an area of the nursing facility to which all  
2.31 eligible employees have access; and

2.32 (4) instructions for employees who believe they have not received the  
2.33 compensation-related increases specified in clause (2), as approved by the commissioner,  
2.34 and which must include a mailing address, an e-mail address, and the telephone number  
2.35 that may be used by the employee to contact the commissioner or the commissioner's  
2.36 representative.

3.1 (e) The commissioner shall ensure that cost increases in distribution plans under  
3.2 paragraph (d), clause (2), that may be included in approved applications, comply with the  
3.3 following requirements:

3.4 (1) a portion of the costs resulting from tenure-related wage or salary increases  
3.5 may be considered to be allowable wage increases, according to formulas that the  
3.6 commissioner shall provide, where employee retention is above the average statewide  
3.7 rate of retention of direct-care employees;

3.8 (2) the annualized amount of increases in costs for the employer's share of health  
3.9 and dental insurance, life insurance, disability insurance, and workers' compensation  
3.10 shall be allowable compensation-related increases if they are effective on or after April  
3.11 1, 2015, and prior to April 1, 2016; and

3.12 (3) for nursing facilities in which employees are represented by an exclusive  
3.13 bargaining representative, the commissioner shall approve the application only upon  
3.14 receipt of a letter of acceptance of the distribution plan, in regard to members of the  
3.15 bargaining unit, signed by the exclusive bargaining agent and dated after May 25, 2015.  
3.16 Upon receipt of the letter of acceptance, the commissioner shall deem all requirements of  
3.17 this subdivision as having been met in regard to the members of the bargaining unit.

3.18 (f) The commissioner shall review applications received under paragraph (d) and  
3.19 shall provide the portion of the rate adjustment under paragraph (b) if the requirements of  
3.20 this subdivision have been met. The rate adjustment shall be effective October 1, 2015.  
3.21 Notwithstanding paragraph (a), if the approved application distributes less money than is  
3.22 available, the amount of the rate adjustment shall be reduced so that the amount of money  
3.23 made available is equal to the amount to be distributed.

3.24 (g) The increase in this subdivision shall be applied as a percentage to operating  
3.25 payment rates in effect on September 30, 2015. For each facility the commissioner  
3.26 shall determine the operating payment rate, not including any rate components resulting  
3.27 from equitable cost sharing for publicly owned nursing facility program participation  
3.28 under section 256B.441, subdivision 55a, or performance-based incentive payment  
3.29 program participation under section 256B.434, subdivision 4, paragraph (d), for a resource  
3.30 utilization group class with a weight of 1.00 in effect on September 30, 2015.