

# How to read a bill

The bill reproduced below shows the format used for all bills introduced in the Michigan Legislature. In general, most bills either add to existing law, or delete or change existing law. This particular bill would amend the Public Health Code to change minimum staffing levels in nursing homes. Copies of this bill or any other introduced bill are available through [www.michiganlegislature.org](http://www.michiganlegislature.org).

The diagram below identifies key elements found in most bills. Current law is indicated by regular type. Deleted phrases have a line drawn through them. New language is in bold.

The diagram shows a sample of a Senate Bill with various annotations. The bill text is enclosed in a box with a blue border. Annotations are placed around the box, with red lines pointing to specific parts of the bill. The annotations explain the following elements:

- Chamber:** The chamber in which the bill was introduced in this case, the Senate.
- Number:** This number will be used to identify the bill over the duration of the two-year legislative session. This bill was first introduced in the Senate and will retain this designation, SB 263, in the House.
- Date and Sponsors:** Date of introduction and sponsors. (Primary sponsor listed first; remaining names are co-sponsors.)
- Committee:** Senate committee assigned.
- Current Law:** Sections of current law this bill would amend.
- Strikethrough:** Strikethrough indicates language in the current law that the bill would delete.
- Capitalized Words:** Capitalized words indicate language that would be added to current law by this bill.
- Editorial Changes:** Editorial changes may be made to make language in current law consistent. The example here changes "licensed nurse" to the appropriate term "registered professional nurse or licensed practical nurse."

**SENATE BILL NO. 263**

February 4, 1999, Introduced by Senators BYRUM and SANBORN and referred to the Committee on Health Policy.

A bill to amend 1978 PA 368, entitled "Public health code," by amending section 21720a (MCL 333.21720a).

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1     Sec. 21720a. (1) A **THE DEPARTMENT SHALL NOT**  
2 **LICENSE A** nursing home ~~shall not be licensed~~ under this  
3 part unless ~~that~~ THE nursing home has on its staff at least 1  
4 registered **PROFESSIONAL nurse LICENSED UNDER ARTICLE**  
5 **15** with specialized training or relevant experience in the area of  
6 gerontology, who ~~shall serve~~ **SERVES** as the director of nursing,  
7 and who ~~shall be~~ **IS** responsible for planning and directing  
8 nursing care. The nursing home shall have at least 1 ~~licensed~~  
9 ~~nurse~~ **REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL NURSE OR LICENSED**  
10 **PRACTICAL NURSE LICENSED UNDER ARTICLE 15** on duty at  
11 all times and shall employ additional registered **PROFESSIONAL**  
12 **NURSES** and licensed practical nurses ~~in~~