1. The purpose of the Hospital and Health Boards (Safe Nurse-to-Patient and Midwife-to-Patient Ratios) Amendment Bill 2015 (the Bill) is to provide a legislative framework to enable nurse-to-patient and midwife-to-patient ratios and workload provisions to be mandated in public sector health service facilities.
2. The Bill implements the Government’s commitment in the *Nursing Guarantee* policy to legislate for mandated ratios and workload provisions to ensure patient safety and quality health care.
3. The Bill amends the *Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011* to:

* enable ratios, and requirements relating to the skills and qualifications of nursing and midwifery staff included in ratios, to be prescribed via a regulation (a ‘nursing and midwifery regulation’);
* enable the Minister to grant a temporary exemption to a Hospital and Health Service (‘Service’) from compliance with all or part of a nursing and midwifery regulation, or to vary the application of a nursing and midwifery regulation to a Service;
* provide that the Minister must consider a Service’s capability to comply with a nursing and midwifery regulation, and the likely effects of compliance on the Service, before either prescribing the Service under the regulation or granting or extending a temporary exemption;
* enable the chief executive of the department to make a standard about nursing and midwifery workload management by a Service;
* provide for the collection and public reporting of nursing and midwifery workload management information; and
* provide that the Minister’s power to grant a temporary exemption, and the chief executive’s power to make a standard, may not be delegated.

1. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Hospital and Health Boards (Safe Nurse-to-Patient and Midwife-to-Patient Ratios) Amendment Bill 2015 into the Legislative Assembly.
2. *Attachments*

* [Hospital and Health Boards (Safe Nurse-to-Patient and Midwife-to-Patient Ratios) Amendment Bill 2015](Attachments/Bill.PDF)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.PDF)