

**SENATE**  
**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
**NINETY-THIRD SESSION**

**S.F. No. 1621**

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DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
02/13/2023	806	Introduction and first reading Referred to Labor
03/02/2023	1224a	Comm report: To pass as amended and re-refer to Human Services

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to nursing homes; establishing the Nursing Home Workforce Standards

1.3 Board; establishing duties for the board; requiring training for nursing home

1.4 workers; prohibiting retaliation against nursing home workers; providing for

1.5 enforcement; authorizing rulemaking; authorizing civil actions by nursing home

1.6 workers; amending Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 177.27, subdivisions 4, 7;

1.7 proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 181.

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

1.9 Section 1. TITLE.

1.10 Sections 181.211 to 181.217 shall be known as the "Minnesota Nursing Home Workforce

1.11 Standards Board Act."

1.12 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 177.27, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

1.13 Subd. 4. **Compliance orders.** The commissioner may issue an order requiring an

1.14 employer to comply with sections 177.21 to 177.435, 181.02, 181.03, 181.031, 181.032,

1.15 181.101, 181.11, 181.13, 181.14, 181.145, 181.15, 181.172, paragraph (a) or (d), 181.214

1.16 to 181.217, 181.275, subdivision 2a, 181.722, 181.79, and 181.939 to 181.943, or with any

1.17 rule promulgated under section 177.28, 181.213, or 181.215. The commissioner shall issue

1.18 an order requiring an employer to comply with sections 177.41 to 177.435 if the violation

1.19 is repeated. For purposes of this subdivision only, a violation is repeated if at any time

1.20 during the two years that preceded the date of violation, the commissioner issued an order

1.21 to the employer for violation of sections 177.41 to 177.435 and the order is final or the

1.22 commissioner and the employer have entered into a settlement agreement that required the

1.23 employer to pay back wages that were required by sections 177.41 to 177.435. The

1.24 department shall serve the order upon the employer or the employer's authorized

2.1 representative in person or by certified mail at the employer's place of business. An employer  
2.2 who wishes to contest the order must file written notice of objection to the order with the  
2.3 commissioner within 15 calendar days after being served with the order. A contested case  
2.4 proceeding must then be held in accordance with sections 14.57 to 14.69. If, within 15  
2.5 calendar days after being served with the order, the employer fails to file a written notice  
2.6 of objection with the commissioner, the order becomes a final order of the commissioner.

2.7 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 177.27, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

2.8 Subd. 7. **Employer liability.** If an employer is found by the commissioner to have  
2.9 violated a section identified in subdivision 4, or any rule adopted under section 177.28,  
2.10 181.213, or 181.215, and the commissioner issues an order to comply, the commissioner  
2.11 shall order the employer to cease and desist from engaging in the violative practice and to  
2.12 take such affirmative steps that in the judgment of the commissioner will effectuate the  
2.13 purposes of the section or rule violated. The commissioner shall order the employer to pay  
2.14 to the aggrieved parties back pay, gratuities, and compensatory damages, less any amount  
2.15 actually paid to the employee by the employer, and for an additional equal amount as  
2.16 liquidated damages. Any employer who is found by the commissioner to have repeatedly  
2.17 or willfully violated a section or sections identified in subdivision 4 shall be subject to a  
2.18 civil penalty of up to \$1,000 for each violation for each employee. In determining the amount  
2.19 of a civil penalty under this subdivision, the appropriateness of such penalty to the size of  
2.20 the employer's business and the gravity of the violation shall be considered. In addition, the  
2.21 commissioner may order the employer to reimburse the department and the attorney general  
2.22 for all appropriate litigation and hearing costs expended in preparation for and in conducting  
2.23 the contested case proceeding, unless payment of costs would impose extreme financial  
2.24 hardship on the employer. If the employer is able to establish extreme financial hardship,  
2.25 then the commissioner may order the employer to pay a percentage of the total costs that  
2.26 will not cause extreme financial hardship. Costs include but are not limited to the costs of  
2.27 services rendered by the attorney general, private attorneys if engaged by the department,  
2.28 administrative law judges, court reporters, and expert witnesses as well as the cost of  
2.29 transcripts. Interest shall accrue on, and be added to, the unpaid balance of a commissioner's  
2.30 order from the date the order is signed by the commissioner until it is paid, at an annual rate  
2.31 provided in section 549.09, subdivision 1, paragraph (c). The commissioner may establish  
2.32 escrow accounts for purposes of distributing damages.

3.1 Sec. 4. [181.211] DEFINITIONS.

3.2 Subdivision 1. **Application.** The terms defined in this section apply to sections 181.211  
3.3 to 181.217.

3.4 Subd. 2. **Board.** "Board" means the Minnesota Nursing Home Workforce Standards  
3.5 Board established under section 181.212.

3.6 Subd. 3. **Certified worker organization.** "Certified worker organization" means a  
3.7 worker organization that is certified by the board to conduct nursing home worker trainings  
3.8 under section 181.214.

3.9 Subd. 4. **Commissioner.** "Commissioner" means the commissioner of labor and industry.

3.10 Subd. 5. **Employer organization.** "Employer organization" means:

3.11 (1) an organization that is exempt from federal income taxation under section 501(c)(6)  
3.12 of the Internal Revenue Code and that represents nursing home employers; or

3.13 (2) an entity that employers, who together employ a majority of nursing home workers  
3.14 in Minnesota, have selected as a representative.

3.15 Subd. 6. **Nursing home.** "Nursing home" means a nursing home licensed under chapter  
3.16 144A, or a boarding care home licensed under sections 144.50 to 144.56.

3.17 Subd. 7. **Nursing home employer.** "Nursing home employer" means an employer of  
3.18 nursing home workers.

3.19 Subd. 8. **Nursing home worker.** "Nursing home worker" means any worker who provides  
3.20 services in a nursing home in Minnesota, including direct care staff, administrative staff,  
3.21 and contractors.

3.22 Subd. 9. **Worker organization.** "Worker organization" means an organization that is  
3.23 exempt from federal income taxation under section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), or 501(c)(5) of  
3.24 the Internal Revenue Code, that is not dominated or interfered with by any nursing home  
3.25 employer within the meaning of United States Code, title 29, section 158a(2), and that has  
3.26 at least five years of demonstrated experience engaging with and advocating for nursing  
3.27 home workers.

4.1 Sec. 5. [181.212] MINNESOTA NURSING HOME WORKFORCE STANDARDS  
4.2 BOARD; ESTABLISHMENT.

4.3 Subdivision 1. Board established; membership. The Minnesota Nursing Home  
4.4 Workforce Standards Board is created with the powers and duties established by law. The  
4.5 board is composed of the following voting members:

4.6 (1) the commissioner of human services or a designee;

4.7 (2) the commissioner of health or a designee;

4.8 (3) the commissioner of labor and industry or a designee;

4.9 (4) three members who represent nursing home employers or employer organizations,  
4.10 appointed by the governor in accordance with section 15.066; and

4.11 (5) three members who represent nursing home workers or worker organizations,  
4.12 appointed by the governor in accordance with section 15.066.

4.13 Subd. 2. Terms; vacancies. (a) Board members appointed under subdivision 1, clause  
4.14 (4) or (5), shall serve four-year terms following the initial staggered-lot determination. The  
4.15 initial terms of members appointed under subdivision 1, clauses (4) and (5), shall be  
4.16 determined by lot by the secretary of state and shall be as follows:

4.17 (1) one member appointed under each of subdivision 1, clauses (4) and (5), shall serve  
4.18 a two-year term;

4.19 (2) one member appointed under each of subdivision 1, clauses (4) and (5), shall serve  
4.20 a three-year term; and

4.21 (3) one member appointed under each of subdivision 1, clauses (4) and (5), shall serve  
4.22 a four-year term.

4.23 (b) For members appointed under subdivision 1, clause (4) or (5), the governor shall fill  
4.24 vacancies occurring prior to the expiration of a member's term by appointment for the  
4.25 unexpired term. A member appointed under subdivision 1, clause (4) or (5), must not be  
4.26 appointed to more than two consecutive terms.

4.27 Subd. 3. Chairperson. The board shall elect a member by majority vote to serve as its  
4.28 chairperson and shall determine the term to be served by the chairperson.

4.29 Subd. 4. Staffing. The commissioner may employ an executive director for the board  
4.30 and other personnel to carry out duties of the board under sections 181.211 to 181.217.

5.1 Subd. 5. **Compensation.** Compensation of board members is governed by section  
 5.2 15.0575.

5.3 Subd. 6. **Application of other laws.** Meetings of the board are subject to chapter 13D.  
 5.4 The board is subject to chapter 13. The board shall comply with section 15.0597.

5.5 Subd. 7. **Voting.** The affirmative vote of five board members is required for the board  
 5.6 to take any action, including actions necessary to establish minimum nursing home  
 5.7 employment standards under section 181.213.

5.8 Subd. 8. **Hearings and investigations.** To carry out its duties, the board shall hold public  
 5.9 hearings on, and conduct investigations into, working conditions in the nursing home industry  
 5.10 in accordance with section 181.213.

5.11 Subd. 9. **Department support.** The commissioner shall provide staff support to the  
 5.12 board. The support includes professional, legal, technical, and clerical staff necessary to  
 5.13 perform rulemaking and other duties assigned to the board. The commissioner shall supply  
 5.14 necessary office space and supplies to assist the board in its duties.

5.15 Sec. 6. **[181.213] DUTIES OF THE BOARD; MINIMUM NURSING HOME**  
 5.16 **EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS.**

5.17 Subdivision 1. **Authority to establish minimum nursing home employment**  
 5.18 **standards.** (a) The board must adopt rules establishing minimum nursing home employment  
 5.19 standards that are reasonably necessary and appropriate to protect the health and welfare  
 5.20 of nursing home workers, to ensure that nursing home workers are properly trained about  
 5.21 and fully informed of their rights under sections 181.211 to 181.217, and to otherwise satisfy  
 5.22 the purposes of sections 181.211 to 181.217. Standards established by the board must  
 5.23 include, as appropriate, standards on compensation, working hours, and other working  
 5.24 conditions for nursing home workers. Any standards established by the board under this  
 5.25 section must be at least as protective of or beneficial to nursing home workers as any other  
 5.26 applicable statute or rule or any standard previously established by the board. In establishing  
 5.27 standards under this section, the board may establish statewide standards, standards that  
 5.28 apply to specific nursing home occupations, standards that apply to specific geographic  
 5.29 areas within the state, or any combination thereof.

5.30 (b) The board must adopt rules establishing initial standards for wages and working  
 5.31 hours for nursing home workers no later than August 1, 2024. The board may use the  
 5.32 authority in section 14.389 to adopt rules under this paragraph. The board shall consult with

6.1 the department in the development of these standards prior to beginning the rule adoption  
 6.2 process.

6.3 (c) To the extent that any minimum standards that the board finds are reasonably  
 6.4 necessary and appropriate to protect the health and welfare of nursing home workers fall  
 6.5 within the jurisdiction of chapter 182, the board shall not adopt rules establishing the  
 6.6 standards but shall instead recommend the occupational health and safety standards to the  
 6.7 commissioner. The commissioner shall adopt nursing home health and safety standards  
 6.8 under section 182.655 as recommended by the board, unless the commissioner determines  
 6.9 that the recommended standard is outside the statutory authority of the commissioner,  
 6.10 presents enforceability challenges, is infeasible to implement, or is otherwise unlawful and  
 6.11 issues a written explanation of this determination.

6.12 Subd. 2. **Investigation of market conditions.** The board must investigate market  
 6.13 conditions and the existing wages, benefits, and working conditions of nursing home workers  
 6.14 for specific geographic areas of the state and specific nursing home occupations. Based on  
 6.15 this information, the board must seek to adopt minimum nursing home employment standards  
 6.16 that meet or exceed existing industry conditions for a majority of nursing home workers in  
 6.17 the relevant geographic area and nursing home occupation. The board must consider the  
 6.18 following types of information in making determinations that employment standards are  
 6.19 reasonably necessary to protect the health and welfare of nursing home workers:

6.20 (1) wage rate and benefit data collected by or submitted to the board for nursing home  
 6.21 workers in the relevant geographic area and nursing home occupations;

6.22 (2) statements showing wage rates and benefits paid to nursing home workers in the  
 6.23 relevant geographic area and nursing home occupations;

6.24 (3) signed collective bargaining agreements applicable to nursing home workers in the  
 6.25 relevant geographic area and nursing home occupations;

6.26 (4) testimony and information from current and former nursing home workers, worker  
 6.27 organizations, nursing home employers, and employer organizations;

6.28 (5) local minimum nursing home employment standards;

6.29 (6) information submitted by or obtained from state and local government entities; and

6.30 (7) any other information pertinent to establishing minimum nursing home employment  
 6.31 standards.

6.32 Subd. 3. **Review of standards.** At least once every two years, the board shall:

7.1 (1) conduct a full review of the adequacy of the minimum nursing home employment  
7.2 standards previously established by the board; and

7.3 (2) following that review, adopt new rules, amend or repeal existing rules, or make  
7.4 recommendations to adopt new rules or amend or repeal existing rules for minimum nursing  
7.5 home employment standards using the expedited rulemaking process in section 14.389, as  
7.6 appropriate to meet the purposes of sections 181.211 to 181.217.

7.7 Subd. 4. **Conflict.** (a) In the event of a conflict between a standard established by the  
7.8 board in rule and a rule adopted by another state agency, the rule adopted by the board shall  
7.9 apply to nursing home workers and nursing home employers.

7.10 (b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), in the event of a conflict between a standard  
7.11 established by the board in rule and a rule adopted by another state agency, the rule adopted  
7.12 by the other state agency shall apply to nursing home workers and nursing home employers  
7.13 if the rule adopted by the other state agency is adopted after the board's standard and the  
7.14 rule adopted by the other state agency is more protective or beneficial than the board's  
7.15 standard.

7.16 (c) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), if the commissioner of health determines that a  
7.17 standard established by the board in rule or recommended by the board conflicts with  
7.18 requirements in federal regulations for nursing home certification or with state statutes or  
7.19 rules governing licensure of nursing homes, the federal regulations or state nursing home  
7.20 licensure statutes or rules shall take precedence, and the conflicting board standard or rule  
7.21 shall not apply to nursing home workers or nursing home employers.

7.22 Subd. 5. **Effect on other agreements.** Nothing in sections 181.211 to 181.217 shall be  
7.23 construed to:

7.24 (1) limit the rights of parties to a collective bargaining agreement to bargain and agree  
7.25 with respect to nursing home employment standards; or

7.26 (2) diminish the obligation of a nursing home employer to comply with any contract,  
7.27 collective bargaining agreement, or employment benefit program or plan that meets or  
7.28 exceeds, and does not conflict with, the minimum standards and requirements in sections  
7.29 181.211 to 181.217 or established by the board.

7.30 Sec. 7. **[181.214] DUTIES OF THE BOARD; TRAINING FOR NURSING HOME**  
7.31 **WORKERS.**

7.32 Subdivision 1. **Certification of worker organizations.** The board shall certify worker  
7.33 organizations that it finds are qualified to provide training to nursing home workers according

8.1 to this section. The board shall by rule establish certification criteria that a worker  
8.2 organization must meet in order to be certified and provide a process for renewal of  
8.3 certification upon the board's review of the worker organization's compliance with this  
8.4 section. In adopting rules to establish certification criteria under this subdivision, the board  
8.5 may use the authority in section 14.389. The criteria must ensure that a worker organization,  
8.6 if certified, is able to provide:

8.7 (1) effective, interactive training on the information required by this section; and

8.8 (2) follow-up written materials and responses to inquiries from nursing home workers  
8.9 in the languages in which nursing home workers are proficient.

8.10 Subd. 2. Curriculum. (a) The board shall establish requirements for the curriculum for  
8.11 the nursing home worker training required by this section. A curriculum must at least provide  
8.12 the following information to nursing home workers:

8.13 (1) the applicable compensation, working hours, and working conditions in the minimum  
8.14 standards or local minimum standards established by the board;

8.15 (2) the antiretaliation protections established in section 181.216;

8.16 (3) information on how to enforce sections 181.211 to 181.217 and on how to report  
8.17 violations of sections 181.211 to 181.217 or of standards established by the board, including  
8.18 contact information for the Department of Labor and Industry, the board, and any local  
8.19 enforcement agencies, and information on the remedies available for violations;

8.20 (4) the purposes and functions of the board and information on upcoming hearings,  
8.21 investigations, or other opportunities for nursing home workers to become involved in board  
8.22 proceedings;

8.23 (5) other rights, duties, and obligations under sections 181.211 to 181.217;

8.24 (6) any updates or changes to the information provided according to clauses (1) to (5)  
8.25 since the most recent training session;

8.26 (7) any other information the board deems appropriate to facilitate compliance with  
8.27 sections 181.211 to 181.217; and

8.28 (8) information on labor standards in other applicable local, state, and federal laws, rules,  
8.29 and ordinances regarding nursing home working conditions or nursing home worker health  
8.30 and safety.

8.31 (b) Before establishing initial curriculum requirements, the board must hold at least one  
8.32 public hearing to solicit input on the requirements.



9.1 Subd. 3. **Topics covered in training session.** A certified worker organization is not  
9.2 required to cover all of the topics listed in subdivision 2 in a single training session. A  
9.3 curriculum used by a certified worker organization may provide instruction on each topic  
9.4 listed in subdivision 2 over the course of up to three training sessions.

9.5 Subd. 4. **Annual review of curriculum requirements.** The board must review the  
9.6 adequacy of its curriculum requirements at least annually and must revise the requirements  
9.7 as appropriate to meet the purposes of sections 181.211 to 181.217. As part of each annual  
9.8 review of the curriculum requirements, the board must hold at least one public hearing to  
9.9 solicit input on the requirements.

9.10 Subd. 5. **Duties of certified worker organizations.** A certified worker organization:

9.11 (1) must use a curriculum for its training sessions that meets requirements established  
9.12 by the board;

9.13 (2) must provide trainings that are interactive and conducted in the languages in which  
9.14 the attending nursing home workers are proficient;

9.15 (3) must, at the end of each training session, provide attending nursing home workers  
9.16 with follow-up written or electronic materials on the topics covered in the training session,  
9.17 in order to fully inform nursing home workers of their rights and opportunities under sections  
9.18 181.211 to 181.217;

9.19 (4) must make itself reasonably available to respond to inquiries from nursing home  
9.20 workers during and after training sessions; and

9.21 (5) may conduct surveys of nursing home workers who attend a training session to assess  
9.22 the effectiveness of the training session and industry compliance with sections 181.211 to  
9.23 181.217 and other applicable laws, rules, and ordinances governing nursing home working  
9.24 conditions or worker health and safety.

9.25 Subd. 6. **Nursing home employer duties regarding training.** (a) A nursing home  
9.26 employer must ensure that every six months each of its nursing home workers completes  
9.27 one hour of training that meets the requirements of this section and is provided by a certified  
9.28 worker organization. The nursing home employer must certify its compliance with this  
9.29 subdivision to the board. A nursing home employer may, but is not required to, host training  
9.30 sessions on the premises of the nursing home.

9.31 (b) If requested by a certified worker organization, a nursing home employer must, after  
9.32 a training session provided by the certified worker organization, provide the certified worker  
9.33 organization with the names and contact information of the nursing home workers who

10.1 attended the training session, unless a nursing home worker opts out according to paragraph  
 10.2 (c).

10.3 (c) A nursing home worker may opt out of having the worker's nursing home employer  
 10.4 provide the worker's name and contact information to a certified worker organization that  
 10.5 provided a training session attended by the worker by submitting a written statement to that  
 10.6 effect to the nursing home employer.

10.7 Subd. 7. **Compensation.** A nursing home employer must compensate its nursing home  
 10.8 workers at their regular hourly rate of wages and benefits for each hour of training completed  
 10.9 as required by this section and reimburse any travel expenses if the training sessions are  
 10.10 not held on the premises of the nursing home.

10.11 Sec. 8. **[181.215] REQUIRED NOTICES.**

10.12 Subdivision 1. **Provision of notice.** (a) Nursing home employers must provide notices  
 10.13 informing nursing home workers of the rights and obligations provided under sections  
 10.14 181.211 to 181.217 of applicable minimum nursing home employment standards and local  
 10.15 minimum standards and that for assistance and information, nursing home workers should  
 10.16 contact the Department of Labor and Industry. A nursing home employer must provide  
 10.17 notice using the same means that the nursing home employer uses to provide other  
 10.18 work-related notices to nursing home workers. Provision of notice must be at least as  
 10.19 conspicuous as:

10.20 (1) posting a copy of the notice at each work site where nursing home workers work  
 10.21 and where the notice may be readily seen and reviewed by all nursing home workers working  
 10.22 at the site; or

10.23 (2) providing a paper or electronic copy of the notice to all nursing home workers and  
 10.24 applicants for employment as a nursing home worker.

10.25 (b) The notice required by this subdivision must include text provided by the board that  
 10.26 informs nursing home workers that they may request the notice to be provided in a particular  
 10.27 language. The nursing home employer must provide the notice in the language requested  
 10.28 by the nursing home worker. The board must assist nursing home employers in translating  
 10.29 the notice in the languages requested by their nursing home workers.

10.30 Subd. 2. **Minimum content and posting requirements.** The board must adopt rules  
 10.31 under section 14.389 specifying the minimum content and posting requirements for the  
 10.32 notices required in subdivision 1. The board must make available to nursing home employers

11.1 a template or sample notice that satisfies the requirements of this section and rules adopted  
 11.2 under this section.

11.3 **Sec. 9. [181.216] RETALIATION PROHIBITED.**

11.4 (a) A nursing home employer shall not discharge, discipline, penalize, interfere with,  
 11.5 threaten, restrain, coerce, or otherwise retaliate or discriminate against a nursing home  
 11.6 worker because the person has exercised or attempted to exercise rights protected under  
 11.7 this act, including but not limited to:

11.8 (1) exercising any right afforded to the nursing home worker under sections 181.211 to  
 11.9 181.217;

11.10 (2) participating in any process or proceeding under sections 181.211 to 181.217,  
 11.11 including but not limited to board hearings, board or department investigations, or other  
 11.12 related proceedings; or

11.13 (3) attending or participating in the training required by section 181.214.

11.14 (b) It shall be unlawful for an employer to:

11.15 (1) inform another employer that a nursing home worker or former nursing home worker  
 11.16 has engaged in activities protected under sections 181.211 to 181.217; or

11.17 (2) report or threaten to report the actual or suspected citizenship or immigration status  
 11.18 of a nursing home worker, former nursing home worker, or family member of a nursing  
 11.19 home worker to a federal, state, or local agency for exercising or attempting to exercise any  
 11.20 right protected under this act.

11.21 (c) A person found to have experienced retaliation in violation of this section shall be  
 11.22 entitled to back pay and reinstatement to the person's previous position, wages, benefits,  
 11.23 hours, and other conditions of employment.

11.24 **Sec. 10. [181.217] ENFORCEMENT.**

11.25 Subdivision 1. **Minimum nursing home employment standards.** Except as provided  
 11.26 in section 181.213, subdivision 4, paragraph (b) or (c), the minimum wages, maximum  
 11.27 hours of work, and other working conditions established by the board in rule as minimum  
 11.28 nursing home employment standards shall be the minimum wages, maximum hours of work,  
 11.29 and standard conditions of labor for nursing home workers or a subgroup of nursing home  
 11.30 workers as a matter of state law. Except as provided in section 181.213, subdivision 4,  
 11.31 paragraph (b) or (c), it shall be unlawful for a nursing home employer to employ a nursing

12.1 home worker for lower wages or for longer hours than those established as the minimum  
 12.2 nursing home employment standards or under any other working conditions that violate the  
 12.3 minimum nursing home employment standards.

12.4 Subd. 2. **Investigations.** The commissioner may investigate possible violations of sections  
 12.5 181.214 to 181.217 or of the minimum nursing home employment standards established by  
 12.6 the board whenever it has cause to believe that a violation has occurred, either on the basis  
 12.7 of a report of a suspected violation or on the basis of any other credible information, including  
 12.8 violations found during the course of an investigation.

12.9 Subd. 3. **Civil action by nursing home worker.** (a) One or more nursing home workers  
 12.10 may bring a civil action in district court seeking redress for violations of sections 181.211  
 12.11 to 181.217 or of any applicable minimum nursing home employment standards or local  
 12.12 minimum nursing home employment standards. Such an action may be filed in the district  
 12.13 court of the county where a violation or violations are alleged to have been committed or  
 12.14 where the nursing home employer resides, or in any other court of competent jurisdiction,  
 12.15 and may represent a class of similarly situated nursing home workers.

12.16 (b) Upon a finding of one or more violations, a nursing home employer shall be liable  
 12.17 to each nursing home worker for the full amount of the wages, benefits, and overtime  
 12.18 compensation, less any amount the nursing home employer is able to establish was actually  
 12.19 paid to each nursing home worker, and for an additional equal amount as liquidated damages.  
 12.20 In an action under this subdivision, nursing home workers may seek damages and other  
 12.21 appropriate relief provided by section 177.27, subdivision 7, or otherwise provided by law,  
 12.22 including reasonable costs, disbursements, witness fees, and attorney fees. A court may also  
 12.23 issue an order requiring compliance with sections 181.211 to 181.217 or with the applicable  
 12.24 minimum nursing home employment standards or local minimum nursing home employment  
 12.25 standards. A nursing home worker found to have experienced retaliation in violation of  
 12.26 section 181.216 shall be entitled to back pay and reinstatement to the worker's previous  
 12.27 position, wages, benefits, hours, and other conditions of employment.

12.28 (c) An agreement between a nursing home employer and nursing home worker or labor  
 12.29 union that fails to meet the minimum standards and requirements in sections 181.211 to  
 12.30 181.217 or established by the board is not a defense to an action brought under this  
 12.31 subdivision.

12.32 **Sec. 11. INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.**

12.33 The governor shall make initial appointments to the Minnesota Nursing Home Workforce  
 12.34 Standards Board under Minnesota Statutes, section 181.212, no later than August 1, 2023.

13.1 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.