

Daley Asks Nurse Home Change

A comprehensive ordinance to improve the education and training of nursing home aides and attendants was introduced in the City Council yesterday by Mayor Daley.

The proposed changes in the City Nursing Home Code would require all persons seeking employment as aides, orderlies or technicians first to complete a training program sponsored by the Board of Education. The nursing home reform package also includes the requirement that all patient injuries be reported immediately to the Chicago Police Department.

Daley's proposals were among three separate actions in the council yesterday aimed at correcting the nursing home abuses exposed as the result of a six-week investigation by TRIBUNE Task Force reporters and the Better Government Association.

Hearings Are Asked

Aldermen Seymour Simon [40th], Claude W. B. Holman [4th] and Wilson Frost [21st] introduced resolutions calling on the council's Health Committee to hold public hearings into nursing home conditions.

The resolutions also asked that such investigations determine whether city, state and county health agencies are performing their duties in investigating such conditions, and suggested possible changes and improvements in the City Nursing Home Code.

Holman, who is chairman of the council Health Committee, indicated the committee probably will hear testimony before the April 6 election and may hold joint hearings with the Judiciary Committee. Holman

and Frost co-sponsored one of the resolutions.

Care Is Criticized

Simon's resolution points out that recent disclosures of patient neglect and abuse by THE TRIBUNE and Better Government Association indicate that patients in some nursing homes are "not receiving the type of care they deserve and that physical facilities are far from adequate."

The resolution further states

that conditions must be improved so that "longevity of life will be a blessing and not a curse."

The mayor's proposed ordinance changes for nurse's aides and attendants would require the employe to have at least eight years of schooling or equivalent education and a two-year residency requirement. The applicant also would have to show evidence of employment for the previous two years and be able to speak English.

The proposed code change also would require such employes to have a knowledge of such general skills as bathing, grooming, and feeding patients before they could be hired.

TRIBUNE Task Force reporters working in many nursing homes found many nurses' aides and orderlies had been hired without any experience and received no training before they were placed in charge of helpless and elderly patients.