

By Senator Fasano

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the safe lifting of hospitalized
3 patients; creating s. 381.396, F.S.; defining the term
4 "hospital"; requiring that hospitals establish a policy
5 concerning the safe lifting of patients by hospital
6 employees; providing criteria concerning the policy;
7 providing for a committee to develop the policy; providing
8 for membership of the committee; requiring continuing
9 evaluation of the policy; providing an effective date.

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11 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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13 Section 1. Section 381.396, Florida Statutes, is created to
14 read:

15 381.396 Policy for the safe lifting of patients.--

16 (1) As used in this section, the term "hospital" means a
17 health care facility licensed by the Agency for Health Care
18 Administration as a hospital under chapter 395.

19 (2) Each hospital shall establish a policy addressing the
20 safe lifting, and associated handling, of patients by the
21 hospital's employees which minimizes the risk of injuries to
22 patients and employees. The policy must be developed by a
23 committee whose membership is composed equally of the hospital's
24 management staff and nonmanagement employees, including
25 representation by registered nurses who are engaged in the direct
26 care of patients. The hospital may assign this task to a newly
27 created committee or to an existing committee.

28 (3) In developing the policy, the committee shall:

29 (a) Use data to evaluate the risk of injury to patients and

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30 employees.

31 (b) Determine the appropriateness of alternative strategies
32 for lifting and handling patients based on the population of
33 patients at the hospital and identified hospital-specific risk
34 factors. At a minimum, the committee shall consider:

35 1. Mechanical lifting devices or other engineering controls
36 that minimize the need to manually lift and move the patient;

37 2. Lifting teams;

38 3. Training in safely lifting patients for each employee
39 engaged in caring for patients; and

40 4. Incorporating physical space and construction design for
41 mechanical lifting devices in architectural plans for
42 construction or renovation of the hospital.

43 (4) The committee shall develop an ongoing evaluation
44 process to determine the effectiveness of the policy that the
45 hospital establishes under this section.

46 Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2008.