

By the Committee on Health Regulation; and Senator Fasano

588-03390-08

2008508c1

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 by a
5 specified date a policy concerning the safe lifting of
6 patients by hospital employees; providing criteria
7 concerning the policy; providing for a committee to
8 develop the policy; providing for membership of the
9 committee; requiring continuing evaluation of the policy;
10 providing an effective date.

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

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

16 381.396 Policy for the safe lifting of patients.--

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

20 (2) By December 2008, each hospital shall establish a
21 policy addressing the safe lifting and associated handling of
22 patients by hospital employees which minimizes the risk of
23 injuries to patients and employees. The policy shall be developed
24 by a committee composed of an appropriate mix of management and
25 nonmanagement employees, at least half of whom are clinical
26 employees engaged in direct patient care, including registered
27 nurses engaged in direct patient care. The hospital may assign
28 this task to a newly created committee or to an existing
29 committee.

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

31 (a) Use data to evaluate the risk of injury to patients and
32 employees.

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

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

39 2. Lifting teams;

40 3. Training in safely lifting patients for each employee
41 engaged in caring for patients; and

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

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

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