

2008508e1

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.

11  
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 an  
21 evidence-based policy addressing the safe lifting and associated  
22 handling of patients by hospital employees which minimizes the  
23 risk of injuries to patients and employees. The policy shall be  
24 developed by a committee composed of an appropriate mix of  
25 management and nonmanagement employees, at least half of whom are  
26 clinical employees engaged in direct patient care, including  
27 registered nurses engaged in direct patient care. The hospital  
28 may assign this task to a newly created committee or to an  
29 existing 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.