

By Senator Thompson

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to patient lifting; creating s.
3 395.1013, F.S.; requiring hospitals to establish a
4 protocol concerning the lifting and associated
5 handling of patients by hospital employees; requiring
6 that the protocol be developed by a committee;
7 providing for membership of the committee; providing
8 factors for the committee to consider in developing
9 the protocol; establishing a continuous assessment and
10 evaluation of the protocol; providing an effective
11 date.

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

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15 Section 1. Section 395.1013, Florida Statutes, is created
16 to read:

17 395.1013 Patient lifting and handling.-

18 (1) A hospital shall establish an evidence-based protocol
19 regarding the safe lifting and associated handling of patients
20 by hospital employees which minimizes the risk of injury to
21 patients and employees. The protocol shall be developed by a
22 committee comprised of an appropriate mix of management and
23 nonmanagement employees, including registered nurses engaged in
24 direct patient care. The hospital may assign the task of
25 developing the protocol to a new or existing committee.

26 (2) In developing the protocol, the committee shall:

27 (a) Use relevant data to evaluate the risk of injury to
28 patients and employees.

29 (b) Determine the appropriateness of alternative strategies

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30 for lifting and associated handling of patients based on the
31 population of patients at the hospital and identified hospital-
32 specific risk factors. At a minimum, the committee shall
33 consider:

34 1. Training employees engaged in caring for patients to use
35 safe lifting and associated handling practices.

36 2. Using teams of trained employees to lift and handle
37 patients.

38 3. Integrating the use of mechanical lifting devices or
39 other engineering controls that minimize the need to manually
40 lift and handle the patient.

41 4. Designating physical space and incorporating
42 architectural design to accommodate mechanical lifting devices
43 or other engineering controls during construction or renovation
44 of the hospital.

45 (c) Develop an ongoing evaluation process to determine the
46 effectiveness of the protocol established under this section.

47 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.