

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 577—COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

MARCH 26, 2007

Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

SUMMARY—Requires certain medical facilities to establish a program for safe handling of patients. (BDR 40-1035)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact.
Effect on the State: Yes.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to medical facilities; requiring certain medical facilities to establish a program and policy relating to safe handling of patients; requiring such a facility to establish a committee on safe handling of patients; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

This bill requires a hospital or facility for skilled nursing care to establish a committee on safe handling of patients. The committee is required to develop a program for safe handling of patients and recommend the program to the hospital or facility for skilled nursing care. The hospital or facility for skilled nursing care is required to adopt a program for safe handling of patients, including annual training for employees on safe handling of patients and an annual evaluation of the policy.

This bill also requires the hospital or facility for skilled nursing care to consider the incorporation of lifting equipment when constructing or remodeling the facility.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 449 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 7, inclusive, of this act.

Sec. 2. *As used in sections 2 to 7, inclusive, of this act, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in sections 3, 4 and 5 of this act have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.*



* A B 5 7 7 *

1 **Sec. 3. “Lifting equipment” means a mechanical device**
2 **designed to assist or aid in the lifting, transfer or repositioning of**
3 **a patient.**

4 **Sec. 4. “Lifting team” means a group of persons specifically**
5 **trained to conduct a lift, transfer or repositioning of a patient, with**
6 **or without the assistance of lifting equipment.**

7 **Sec. 5. “Safe handling of a patient” means the use of lifting**
8 **teams or lifting equipment to lift, transfer or reposition a patient.**

9 **Sec. 6. 1. A hospital or facility for skilled nursing care**
10 **shall establish a committee on safe handling of patients. The**
11 **committee must consist of an equal number of members who:**

12 **(a) Represent the interests of the ownership or management of**
13 **the hospital or facility for skilled nursing care; and**

14 **(b) Provide medical care directly to the patients at the hospital**
15 **or facility for skilled nursing care.**

16 **2. The committee on safe handling of patients shall:**

17 **(a) Design a program for safe handling of patients at the**
18 **hospital or facility for skilled nursing care; and**

19 **(b) Recommend the program designed pursuant to paragraph**
20 **(a) to the hospital or facility for skilled nursing care.**

21 **Sec. 7. 1. A hospital or facility for skilled nursing care**
22 **shall adopt a program for safe handling of patients which must**
23 **include, without limitation:**

24 **(a) The policy of the hospital or facility for skilled nursing**
25 **care for the required use of lifting teams or lifting equipment in all**
26 **units and during all shifts.**

27 **(b) Annual training for persons employed by the hospital on:**

28 **(1) The policy for the use of lifting teams and lifting**
29 **equipment adopted pursuant to paragraph (a);**

30 **(2) The proper use of lifting equipment; and**

31 **(3) The proper use of lifting teams.**

32 **(c) An annual evaluation of the policy adopted pursuant to**
33 **paragraph (a).**

34 **(d) If the hospital or facility for skilled nursing care is**
35 **constructing or renovating a building, a consideration of the**
36 **incorporation of lifting equipment into the building.**

37 **(e) Procedures that allow an employee to refuse to be involved**
38 **in handling of a patient that the employee believes in good faith**
39 **will expose the patient or an employee to an unacceptable risk of**
40 **injury. An employee who follows the procedure in good faith must**
41 **not be the subject of disciplinary action for the refusal.**

42 **2. When adopting the program for safe handling of patients**
43 **pursuant to subsection 1, the hospital or facility for skilled nursing**
44 **care shall consider, without limitation:**



- 1 ***(a) The recommendations submitted to the hospital or facility***
2 ***for skilled nursing care pursuant to section 6 of this act; and***
3 ***(b) The safety of the patients at the hospital or facility for***
4 ***skilled nursing care.***

5 **Sec. 8.** 1. A hospital or facility for skilled nursing care shall
6 adopt the program required by section 7 of this act on or before
7 January 10, 2010.

8 2. As used in this section:

- 9 (a) "Facility for skilled nursing care" has the meaning ascribed
10 to it in NRS 449.0039.
11 (b) "Hospital" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 449.012.

