

CHAPTER 56

(Senate Bill 879)

AN ACT concerning

Hospitals – Safe Patient Lifting

FOR the purpose of requiring hospitals to establish a safe patient lifting committee composed of certain members on or before a certain date; requiring the committee to establish a safe patient lifting policy on or before a certain date; requiring the committee to consider certain factors while developing a safe patient lifting policy; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the safe lifting of hospital patients.

BY adding to

Article – Health – General

Section 19–377 to be under the new part “Part X. Safe Patient Lifting”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2005 Replacement Volume and 2006 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Health – General

19–375. RESERVED.

19–376. RESERVED.

PART X. SAFE PATIENT LIFTING.

19–377.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, “SAFE PATIENT LIFTING” MEANS THE USE OF MECHANICAL LIFTING DEVICES BY HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES, INSTEAD OF MANUAL LIFTING, TO LIFT, TRANSFER, AND REPOSITION PATIENTS.

(B) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2007, EACH HOSPITAL SHALL ESTABLISH A SAFE PATIENT LIFTING COMMITTEE WITH EQUAL MEMBERSHIP FROM MANAGEMENT AND EMPLOYEES.

(C) (1) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2008, THE SAFE PATIENT LIFTING COMMITTEE SHALL DEVELOP A SAFE PATIENT LIFTING POLICY FOR THE HOSPITAL.

(2) THE GOAL OF THE POLICY SHALL BE TO REDUCE EMPLOYEE INJURIES ASSOCIATED WITH PATIENT LIFTING.

(D) WHILE DEVELOPING A SAFE PATIENT LIFTING POLICY, THE COMMITTEE SHALL CONSIDER, BASED ON THE PATIENT POPULATION OF THAT HOSPITAL, THE APPROPRIATENESS AND EFFECTIVENESS OF:

(1) DEVELOPING OR ENHANCING PATIENT HANDLING HAZARD ASSESSMENT PROCESSES;

(2) ENHANCED USE OF MECHANICAL LIFTING DEVICES;

(3) DEVELOPING SPECIALIZED LIFT TEAMS;

(4) TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR SAFE PATIENT LIFTING REQUIRED FOR ALL PATIENT CARE PERSONNEL AT THE HOSPITAL;

(5) INCORPORATING PHYSICAL SPACE AND CONSTRUCTION DESIGN FOR MECHANICAL LIFTING DEVICES IN ANY ARCHITECTURAL PLANS FOR HOSPITAL CONSTRUCTION OR RENOVATION; AND

(6) DEVELOPING AN EVALUATION PROCESS TO DETERMINE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE POLICY.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2007.

Approved by the Governor, April 10, 2007.