



AMERICAN INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE ASSOCIATION
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT
STATE UPDATE

February 14, 2015

FLORIDA

Here is the latest legislative/regulatory report for your State. AIHA government affairs will send the reports every week, detailing any legislative and/or regulatory pertinent to the profession in your state. The reports will also include the text of many bills (if available) and update activity on bills already reported. However, reports will only be sent if there has been new activity on the legislation and/or regulations already reported, or new legislation and/or regulations are found. Reports are sent to local section officers and may be forwarded to others if you wish. Questions contact Aaron Trippler at atrippler@aiha.org.

New Legislation

FL H 685 IDENTICAL: FL S 750

AUTHOR: Rogers (D)
TITLE: Patient Lifting and Handling Practices
PREFILED: 02/10/2015
DISPOSITION: Pending

SUMMARY:

Relates to patient lifting and handling practices; requires hospitals to establish policy concerning safe lifting & handling of patients; requires committee to develop & evaluate policy.

STATUS:
02/10/2015 PREFILED.

FL S 750 IDENTICAL: FL H 685

AUTHOR: Bullard D (D)
TITLE: Patient Lifting and Handling Practices Policy
PREFILED: 02/06/2015
DISPOSITION: Pending

SUMMARY:

Relates to patient lifting and handling practices; defines the term hospital; requires hospitals to establish a policy concerning the lifting and handling of patients by hospital employees; requires a committee to develop the policy; provides for membership and duties of the committee; requires continuing evaluation of the policy.

STATUS:
02/06/2015 PREFILED.
02/13/2015 To SENATE Committee on HEALTH POLICY.
02/13/2015 Referred to SENATE Committee on FISCAL POLICY.

02/13/2015 Referred to SENATE Committee on RULES.

Added: Green underlined text

Deleted: ~~Dark red text with a strikethrough~~

Vetoed: Red text

[Links to affected code section](#)

2015 FL H 685	Author:	Rogers
	Version:	Prefiled
	Version Date:	02/10/2015

HB 685

2015

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to patient lifting and handling practices; creating s. 381.029, F.S.; defining the term "hospital"; requiring hospitals to establish a policy concerning the lifting and handling of patients by hospital employees; requiring a committee to develop the policy; providing for membership and duties of the committee; requiring continuing evaluation of the policy; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 381.029, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

381.029 Patient lifting and handling practices. —

(1) As used in this section, the term "hospital" means a health care facility licensed under chapter 395.

(2) A hospital shall establish an evidence-based policy regarding the safe lifting and associated handling of patients by hospital employees that minimizes the risk of injuries to patients and employees. The policy shall be developed by a committee composed of an appropriate mix of management and nonmanagement employees, including registered nurses engaged in direct patient care. The hospital may assign the task of developing the policy to a newly created committee or to an existing committee.

(3) The committee shall:

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

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

1. Using mechanical lifting devices or other engineering controls that minimize the need to lift and handle the patient manually.

2. Using teams to lift and handle patients.

3. Providing training in safe lifting and handling practices for employees engaged in caring for patients.

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

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

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.

Legislation Reported Earlier

None to Report

Regulatory Activity

None to Report