HB 3487/SB 1213: An Act Relative to Safe Patient Handling in Certain Health Facilities

Lead Sponsors: Representative Claire Cronin/Senator Harriette Chandler

DID YOU KNOW?

- In the course of an eight hour shift, a registered nurse will typically lift 1.8 tons.
- A back injury occurs once every 30 minutes among American health care workers.
- Health care workers experience musculoskeletal injuries at one of the highest rates of any profession.
- The average cost per workers compensation claim is $24,000, and if surgery is required, this figure exceeds $40,000? This does not account for the other costs associated with workplace injuries, such as replacement of staff, overtime, etc.
- Hospitals that have implemented safe patient handling programs like those in this legislation report that they have reduced lifting injuries among nursing staff by up to 80 percent.

WHAT THIS BILL DOES:

- Requires health care facilities to establish a safe patient handling committee to design and recommend the process for implementing a safe patient handling program and to oversee the implementation of the program.
- Requires health care facilities to adopt and implement a safe patient handling program to identify, assess, and develop strategies to control risk of injury to patients and health care workers associated with the lifting, transferring, repositioning, or movement of a patient or equipment.
- Requires health care facilities to acquire any equipment deemed necessary by the safe patient handling committee.
- Implementing safe patient handling practices will reduce work related injuries, decrease unsafe handling variability across health care facilities, create standards for measuring outcomes and protect patients.

“The bottom line is, there's no safe way to lift a patient manually,”

William Marras, director of The Ohio State University's Spine Research Institute, which has conducted landmark studies on the issue.

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