

HOUSE BILL 1137

J3

71r2900
CF 71r2804

By: **Delegates Pena–Melnik, Braveboy, Griffith, Ivey, and Valderrama**
Introduced and read first time: February 19, 2007
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Hospitals – Safe Patient Lifting**

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

9 BY adding to
10 Article – Health – General
11 Section 19–377 to be under the new part “Part X. Safe Patient Lifting”
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2006 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Health – General**

17 **19–375. RESERVED.**

18 **19–376. RESERVED.**

19 **PART X. SAFE PATIENT LIFTING.**

20 **19–377.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

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

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

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

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

17 **(2) ENHANCED USE OF MECHANICAL LIFTING DEVICES;**

18 **(3) DEVELOPING SPECIALIZED LIFT TEAMS;**

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

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

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

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