

# Senate Bill 572

Sponsored by Senator MONNES ANDERSON, Representative GREENLICK

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Requires hospital to implement safe patient handling policy. Establishes requirements for safe patient handling policy.

Requires that workers' compensation rates take into consideration anticipated reductions in loss costs due to implementation of safe patient handling policy.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to the safe handling of hospital patients.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2013 Act is added to and made a part of ORS 441.015 to**  
5 **441.063.**

6 **SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section:**

7 (a) **"Lift" or "lift equipment" means a mechanical device or transfer aid that is used to**  
8 **lift, transfer or reposition a patient instead of manually lifting, transferring or repositioning**  
9 **the patient.**

10 (b) **"Lift team" means a group of hospital staff who are specially trained to lift, transfer**  
11 **and reposition patients using lift equipment, when appropriate, and who, at least annually,**  
12 **receive refresher training on policies, lift equipment and related devices.**

13 (c) **"Musculoskeletal disorders" means conditions that involve the nerves, tendons, mus-**  
14 **cles and supporting structures of the body.**

15 (2) **A hospital must have a committee responsible for the implementation and monitoring**  
16 **of a safe patient handling policy. At least half of the membership of the committee must**  
17 **be nonmanagement employees of the hospital who provide direct care to patients. In devel-**  
18 **oping the policy, the committee shall take into account the existing and potential risks to**  
19 **the safe handling of patients in the hospital, including but not limited to the tasks involved**  
20 **in patient handling, the types of hospital units and the patient populations.**

21 (3) **A safe patient handling policy must:**

22 (a) **Be implemented for all shifts and in all units of the hospital;**

23 (b) **Be based on a patient's physical and medical condition and the availability of lift**  
24 **equipment or lift teams;**

25 (c) **Include a process for addressing situations in which it is medically contraindicated**  
26 **to use lift equipment for a particular patient; and**

27 (d) **Include the acquisition of one or more of the following:**

28 (A) **One readily available lift per acute care unit on each floor unless the committee de-**  
29 **termines that a lift is unnecessary for the floor;**

30 (B) **One lift for every 10 acute care inpatient beds; or**

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (C) Lift equipment, other than mechanical devices, for use by lift teams.

2 (4)(a) A hospital must periodically review the safe patient handling policy and the imple-  
3 mentation of the policy to determine the extent to which the policy reduces:

4 (A) The number of workers' compensation claims made by hospital staff based on  
5 musculoskeletal disorders caused by handling patients; and

6 (B) The number of workdays lost by hospital staff due to musculoskeletal disorders  
7 caused by handling patients.

8 (b) Following each review under this subsection, a hospital shall recommend improve-  
9 ments to the policy and report the recommendations to the committee described in sub-  
10 section (2) of this section.

11 (5) In any plans for construction or remodeling, a hospital shall incorporate lift equip-  
12 ment or the physical space and construction design necessary to install lift equipment at a  
13 later date, consistent with the hospital's safe patient handling policy.

14 **SECTION 3.** (1) A hospital must have in place a safe patient handling policy, as described  
15 in section 2 of this 2013 Act, no later than February 1, 2014.

16 (2) Lift equipment required under section 2 (3)(d) of this 2013 Act must be acquired no  
17 later than January 1, 2017.

18 **SECTION 4.** Section 5 of this 2013 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 737.

19 **SECTION 5.** In addition to the requirements of ORS 737.310, rates for workers' compen-  
20 sation coverage of hospital staff must give due consideration to anticipated reductions in loss  
21 costs due to the implementation of a safe patient handling policy in accordance with section  
22 2 of this 2013 Act.

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