

By: Madla

S.B. No. 1298

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to workplace safety in hospitals.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 241, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 241.029 to read as follows:

Sec. 241.029. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES RELATING TO WORKPLACE SAFETY. (a) The governing body of a hospital shall adopt policies and procedures related to the work environment for nurses and other hospital personnel to:

(1) improve workplace safety and reduce the risk of injury, occupational illness, and violence; and

(2) increase the use of ergonomic principles and ergonomically designed devices to reduce injury and fatigue.

(b) The policies and procedures adopted under Subsection (a), at a minimum, must include:

(1) evaluating new products and technology that incorporate ergonomic principles;

(2) educating hospital personnel in the application of ergonomic practices;

(3) conducting workplace audits to identify areas of risk of injury, occupational illness, or violence and recommending ways to reduce those risks;

(4) controlling access to those areas identified as having a high risk of violence; and

1 (5) promptly reporting crimes committed against
2 hospital personnel to appropriate law enforcement agencies.

3 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003. A
4 hospital must adopt policies and procedures required by Section
5 241.029, Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act, not later
6 than January 1, 2004.