

1-1 By: Rose, Naishtat (Senate Sponsor - Nelson) H.B. No. 703
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 6, 2009;
1-3 April 27, 2009, read first time and referred to Committee on Health
1-4 and Human Services; May 4, 2009, reported favorably by the
1-5 following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; May 4, 2009, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to fall prevention awareness.

1-9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-10 SECTION 1. Chapter 161, Human Resources Code, is amended by
1-11 adding Subchapter F to read as follows:

1-12 SUBCHAPTER F. FALL PREVENTION AWARENESS

1-13 Sec. 161.151. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. The legislature finds
1-14 that:

1-15 (1) in 2008, 1.14 million older Texans were expected
1-16 to sustain falls;

1-17 (2) the risk factors associated with falling increase
1-18 with age;

1-19 (3) approximately 20 to 30 percent of older adults who
1-20 fall suffer moderate to severe injuries, resulting in almost 80,000
1-21 hospitalizations annually and constituting 40 percent of all
1-22 nursing home placements;

1-23 (4) according to the Centers for Disease Control of
1-24 the United States Public Health Service, the total direct cost of
1-25 all fall-related injuries in 2000 for people 65 years of age and
1-26 older exceeded \$19 billion nationwide; and

1-27 (5) research shows that a well-designed fall
1-28 prevention program that includes risk factor assessments, a focused
1-29 physical activity program, and improvement of the home environment
1-30 can reduce the incidence of falls by 30 to 50 percent.

1-31 Sec. 161.152. FALL PREVENTION AWARENESS WEEK. The week
1-32 that begins on the first Sunday of each year that falls after the
1-33 date of the autumnal equinox is declared "Fall Prevention Awareness
1-34 Week."

1-35 Sec. 161.153. FALL PREVENTION POLICY. The department may
1-36 develop recommendations to:

1-37 (1) raise public awareness about fall prevention;

1-38 (2) educate older adults and individuals who provide
1-39 care to older adults about best practices to reduce the incidence
1-40 and risk of falls among older adults;

1-41 (3) encourage state and local governments and the
1-42 private sector to promote policies and programs that help reduce
1-43 the incidence and risk of falls among older adults;

1-44 (4) encourage area agencies on aging to include fall
1-45 prevention education in their services;

1-46 (5) develop a system for reporting falls to improve
1-47 available information on falls; and

1-48 (6) incorporate fall prevention guidelines into state
1-49 and local planning documents that affect housing, transportation,
1-50 parks, recreational facilities, and other public facilities.

1-51 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
1-52 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
1-53 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
1-54 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
1-55 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

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