By: Naishtat

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1   AN ACT

2 relating to implementation of a rapid response system in certain

3 hospitals.

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

5   SECTION 1. Chapter 311, Health and Safety Code, is amended

6 by adding Subchapter G to read as follows:

7   SUBCHAPTER G. HOSPITAL RAPID RESPONSE SYSTEM

8   Sec. 311.101. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

9   (1) "Health care provider" means a person who provides

10 health care services at a hospital as a physician, as an employee of

11 the hospital, or under a contract with the hospital.

12   (2) "Hospital" means:

13   (A) a general or special hospital licensed under

14 Chapter 241 or exempt from licensure under Section 241.004(3); or

15   (B) a private mental hospital licensed under

16 Chapter 577.

17   Sec. 311.102. RAPID RESPONSE SYSTEM REQUIRED.   The

18 governing body of a hospital shall adopt, implement, and enforce a

19 policy that prescribes procedures for a health care provider at the

20 hospital to recognize and respond to changes in a patient's

21 condition that is worsening.

22   Sec. 311.103. POLICY REQUIREMENTS.   The policy required

23 under Section 311.102 must:

24   (1) provide a method for recognition of and response

1 by a health care provider as soon as possible to a patient's

2 condition if the patient's condition appears to worsen;

3   (2) include written criteria:

4   (A) describing early warning signs that a

5 patient's condition is changing or deteriorating; and

6   (B) establishing the situations in which a health

7 care provider must seek additional assistance for the patient;

8   (3) require a health care provider to seek additional

9 assistance for a patient based on the criteria established by

10 Subdivision (2)(B); and

11   (4) require the hospital to provide instruction to

12 patients and their family members on how to seek assistance from a

13 health care provider if a patient or family member has a concern

14 about changes in the patient's condition.

15   SECTION 2. This Act takes effect January 1, 2016.