

2009 -- S 0187

LC00600

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2009

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY

Introduced By: Senator C Levesque

Date Introduced: February 04, 2009

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 23 of the General Laws entitled "HEALTH AND SAFETY" is hereby  
2 amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 84

4 THE PATIENT SAFETY AND MEDICAL ERROR REDUCTION ACT

5 **23-84-1. Short title** – This chapter shall be known and may be cited as “The Patient  
6 Safety and Medical Error Reduction Act.”

7 **23-84-2. Legislative findings.** – It is hereby found and declared as follows:

8 (1) The 1999 Institute of Medicine report, *To Err is Human found:*

9 (i) Between forty-four thousand (44,000) and ninety-eight thousand (98,000) deaths per  
10 year in US hospitals result from adverse events. These deaths account for more than deaths  
11 caused by car accidents, breast cancer, or AIDS.

12 (ii) Costs of preventable adverse events are estimated at between seventeen billion dollars  
13 (\$17,000,000,000) and twenty-nine billion dollars (\$29,000,000,000) annually.

14 (2) Preventable adverse events in hospitals include bedsores, surgical complications and  
15 infections.

16 (3) As of 2007, Rhode Island general laws require:

17 (a) Section 23-17.17.6 – the public reporting of measures associated with hospital-  
18 acquired infections by the department of health; and,

19 (b) Section 23-17-40 – mandatory reporting of infection outbreaks in hospitals to the

1 department of health.

2 (4) Numerous measures have been proven to be effective in saving lives and improving  
3 the safety of patients in hospitals. Guidelines, protocols and comprehensive programs have been  
4 designed by numerous organizations for use by hospitals to reduce errors and improve outcomes.  
5 These organizations include the National Quality Forum and the Institute for Healthcare  
6 Improvement.

7 **23-84-3. Definitions.** -- For the purpose of this section, the terms “hospital” and  
8 “director” shall be defined in accordance with section 23-17-2.

9 **23-84-4. Patient safety and medical error reduction.** – Each hospital in the state shall  
10 participate in a comprehensive program to improve patient safety and reduce medical errors in  
11 that hospital. The director shall determine by regulation those programs that meet acceptable  
12 standards of comprehensiveness and effectiveness to significantly improve patient safety in  
13 hospitals.

14 **23-84-5. Compliance.** – Each hospital shall document compliance with this section to the  
15 director as a contingency of state licensure under this chapter.

16 **23-84-6. Public reporting.** – Hospitals shall report measurements of progress in  
17 improving patient safety to the public in accordance with regulations set forth by the director.

18 **23-84-7. Medical assistance program reimbursement.** – The department of human  
19 services may use hospital performance in accordance with this section in determining rates of  
20 reimbursement to individual hospitals.

21 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY

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1           This act would create the “Patient Safety and Medical Error Reduction Act” and would  
2 require each hospital in the state to participate in a comprehensive program to improve patient  
3 safety and reduce medical errors in the respective hospitals.

4           This act shall take effect upon passage.

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