



**National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society**
Illinois Public
Policy Network



Hospital Safe Patient Handling Policy

SB1577

Sponsor: Senator Linda Holmes

HB 1684

Sponsor: Representative Lou Lang

Bill Summary



- Enhances Hospital Licensing Act (“Act”)
- Ensures patient safety, dignity, self-determination, and choice in safe patient handling policy.
- Defines strategy to control risk of injury to patients, nurses, and other health care workers when lifting, transferring, repositioning, or moving a patient.
- SB 1577/HB 1684 will advance health care access for Illinoisans with mobility disabilities via improved patient choice, enhanced awareness, skilled and knowledgeable health care workers, and vital safe handling options.

Bill Summary (cont.)



- We support greater access to health care for persons w/MS and other mobility disabilities and the prevention of injury to health care workers via policy development, education, and the availability of accessible medical equipment.
- Act currently requires hospitals to adopt a safe patient handling policy. We support additional language in SB 1577 and HB 1684 to ensure these policies will maintain:
 - 1) the patients right to choose how to be moved;
 - 2) ensure nurse and health care workers are trained in safe moving techniques;

Bill Summary (cont.)



- 3) inform patient of safe handling options, including trained safe lifting team, mechanical lifting devices, and accessible medical equipment;
- 4) document at all times a mobility assessment plan for handling patients, considering patient's choice of options;
- 5) incorporate safe handling procedures in compliance with federal law.

SB 1577/HB 1684 Talking Points



- Bill supports the 782,000 Illinoisans with mobility disability by providing access and input to safe health care for both the patient and the health care worker.
- Adults with functional limitations account for 60% of all overnight hospital stays and are disproportionately affected by existing access barriers.

SB 1577/HB 1684 Talking Points (cont.)



- ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) is federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in everyday activities, including medical services.
- Unfortunately 20 years later, we still have not achieved equal access to these vital services.
- Bill brings the mobility disability community closer to the equality envisioned by the ADA.
- **Request:** Please support/co-sponsor SB 1577/HB 1684 to provide a Hospital Safe Handling Policy for patients with MS and other mobility disabilities.



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Gas Station Accessibility

SB 1238

Sponsor: Senator Mike Jacobs

Bill Summary



- Amends the Motor Fuel Sales Act (“Act”)
- Refueling assistance at gas stations and service stations for persons with mobility disability remains a challenge when they are not heard or seen by the gas station employee.
- Assistance buttons on fuel pumps often do not function properly or go unanswered by station employees.
- Honking or waving for assistance is not practical for persons with mobility disability.

Bill Summary (cont.)



- ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requires gas stations to provide equal access for their customers with disabilities.
- Gas stations must provide refueling assistance upon request by any person with a mobility disability.
- SB 1238 adds a provision to the Act that requires the station to post their phone number on the pump for fueling assistance.
- This legislation provides easier access to refueling by persons with disabilities and improves access to a common and necessary business transaction.

Bill Summary (cont.)



- People with mobility disabilities are active consumers in the community and many use modified vehicles to drive.
- Bill assists hundreds of thousands of Illinoisans and visitors to Illinois with MS or other mobility disabilities.
- SB 1238 enhances the lives of the 1 in 5 Americans who live with a disability.
- Empowers persons with disabilities by providing an additional tool that gives them equal access and freedom to participate in community activities.

SB 1238 Talking Points



- People with disabilities can find it difficult or impossible to refuel their vehicles because they are unable to use the controls, hose, or nozzle of a self-serve gas pump.
- Difficulty with refueling can compromise safety for the individual, other customers, and the station.

SB 1238 Talking Points (cont.)



- Even though Illinois statutes today are consistent with the ADA, actual practice at some gasoline and service stations do not comply.
- This legislation provides individuals with disabilities an opportunity to receive equal access to a necessary business service and greater personal freedom.
- The requirement placed on gas stations involves minimal cost and effort to comply.
- **Request:** Please support/co-sponsor SB 1238 in support of Illinoisans with mobility disabilities.