

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 28—COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

(ON BEHALF OF THE HEALTH DIVISION)

PREFILED DECEMBER 20, 2012

Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

SUMMARY—Revises the definition of “sentinel event” for the purpose of provisions relating to the health and safety of patients at certain medical facilities. (BDR 40-311)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Yes.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to public health; revising the definition of “sentinel event” for purposes of provisions relating to the health and safety of patients at certain medical facilities; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

1 Under existing law, any unexpected occurrence involving facility-acquired
2 infection, death or serious physical or psychological injury, known as a “sentinel
3 event,” is required to be reported to the Health Division of the Department of
4 Health and Human Services. (NRS 439.830, 439.835) This bill revises the
5 definition of “sentinel event” to incorporate the most current list of serious
6 reportable events in health care published by the National Quality Forum.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 **Section 1.** NRS 439.830 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 439.830 [~~“Sentinel”~~]

3 **1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, “sentinel**
4 **event” means ~~an unexpected occurrence involving facility-acquired~~**
5 **~~infection, death or serious physical or psychological injury or the~~**
6 **~~risk thereof, including, without limitation, any process variation for~~**



1 ~~which a recurrence would carry a significant chance of a serious~~
2 ~~adverse outcome. The term includes loss of limb or function.] an~~
3 *event included in Appendix A of “Serious Reportable Events in*
4 *Healthcare--2011 Update: A Consensus Report,” published by the*
5 *National Quality Forum.*

6 *2. If the publication described in subsection 1 is revised, the*
7 *term “sentinel events” means the most current version of the list*
8 *of serious reportable events published by the National Quality*
9 *Forum as it exists on the effective date of the revision which is*
10 *deemed to be:*

11 *(a) January 1 of the year following the publication of the*
12 *revision if the revision is published on or after January 1 but*
13 *before July 1 of the year in which the revision is published; or*

14 *(b) July 1 of the year following the publication of the revision*
15 *if the revision is published on or after July 1 of the year in which*
16 *the revision is published but before January 1 of the year after the*
17 *revision is published.*

18 *3. If the National Quality Forum ceases to exist, the most*
19 *current version of the list shall be deemed to be the last version of*
20 *the publication in existence before the National Quality Forum*
21 *ceased to exist.*

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