CHAPTER 199

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

HOUSE BILL 10-1229

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Pace, Riesberg, Apuan, Fischer, Frangas, Gereau, Kefalas, Labuda, Lambert, Massey, Pommer, Primavera, Ryden, Schafer S., Soper, Summers, Todd, Tyler, Vigil;
also SENATOR(S) Newell.

AN ACT

CONCERNING AUTHENTICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR VERBAL ORDERS IN A HOSPITAL.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. Part 1 of article 3 of title 25, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended by the addition of a new section to read:

25-3-111. Authentication of verbal orders - hospital policies or bylaws.
(1) A hospital licensed pursuant to part 3 of this article shall require that all verbal orders be authenticated by a physician or responsible individual who has the authority to issue verbal orders in accordance with hospital and medical staff policies or bylaws. The policies or bylaws shall require that:

(a) Authentication of a verbal order occurs within forty-eight hours after the time the order is made unless a read-back and verify process pursuant to paragraph (b) of this subsection (1) is used. The individual receiving a verbal order shall record in writing the date and time of the verbal order, and sign the verbal order in accordance with hospital policies or medical staff bylaws.

(b) A hospital policy may provide for a read-back and verify process for verbal orders. A read-back and verify process shall require that the individual receiving the order immediately read back the order to the physician or responsible individual, who shall immediately verify that the read-back order is correct. The individual receiving the verbal order shall record in writing that the order was read back and verified.

If the read-back and verify process is followed, the verbal order shall
BE AUTHENTICATED WITHIN THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF THE PATIENT’S DISCHARGE.

(2) **Verbal orders shall be used infrequently. Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to encourage the more frequent use of verbal orders by the medical staff at a hospital.**

**SECTION 2. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

Approved: May 5, 2010