

5461-S

Sponsor(s): Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Thibaudeau, Eide, Sheahan, Brandland, Parlette, Kohl-Welles and Winsley)

Brief Description: Limiting disclosure of client information.

SB 5461-S - DIGEST

(DIGEST OF PROPOSED 1ST SUBSTITUTE)

Applies to disclosure of client information by mental health counselors, marriage and family therapists, and social workers.

Declares that a person licensed under chapter 18.225 RCW shall not disclose the written acknowledgment of the disclosure statement pursuant to RCW 18.225.100, nor any information acquired from persons consulting the individual in a professional capacity when the information was necessary to enable the individual to render professional services to those persons except: (1) With the written authorization of that person or, in the case of death or disability, the person's personal representative;

(2) If the person waives the privilege by bringing charges against the person licensed under this chapter;

(3) In response to a subpoena from the secretary. The secretary may subpoena only records related to a complaint or report under RCW 18.130.050; or

(4) As mandatory reporting under chapter 26.44 or 74.34 RCW or RCW 71.05.250, or as permissive disclosure under RCW 70.02.050.