
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5064

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Thibaudeau, Deccio, Jacobsen, Parlette, Kohl-Welles, Weinstein and Keiser)

READ FIRST TIME 03/02/05.

1 AN ACT Relating to electronic medical records and health
2 information technologies; creating new sections; and providing an
3 expiration date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The Washington state health care
6 authority shall appoint a Washington health information infrastructure
7 advisory board composed of seven to twelve members.

8 (2) Membership shall include representatives of the provider
9 community, including hospitals, information technology experts, health
10 care policy experts, consumers, the director of the department of
11 information services or the director's designee, and the agency medical
12 directors group.

13 (3) The authority shall appoint the chair of the advisory board.

14 (4) The members of the advisory board shall receive no
15 compensation, but shall be reimbursed for expenses under RCW 43.03.050
16 and 43.03.060.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The Washington state health care
18 authority, in collaboration with the advisory board, shall develop a

1 strategy for the adoption and use of electronic medical records and
2 health information technologies that are consistent with emerging
3 national standards and promote interoperability of health information
4 systems. The strategy should:

5 (a) Be informed by research into, and identification of the best
6 practices in, electronic medical records systems and health information
7 technologies, including system design, implementation, operation, and
8 evaluation;

9 (b) Be designed to encourage greater adoption of electronic medical
10 record and health information technologies among the state's health
11 care providers that reduce medical errors and enable patients to make
12 better decisions about their own health care by promoting secure access
13 to medical records online; and

14 (c) Seek to promote standards and systems that are compatible with
15 current adopters of electronic medical record systems in Washington.

16 (2) The authority, in collaboration with the advisory board, shall
17 identify obstacles to the implementation of an effective health
18 information infrastructure in the state and provide policy
19 recommendations to remove or minimize those obstacles and identify
20 state health care purchasing strategies that can provide incentives to
21 providers and organizations that adopt effective health information
22 technologies.

23 (3) The authority shall advise appropriate parties within the
24 legislature and the executive branch on issues related to the
25 development and implementation of a health information infrastructure.

26 (4) The authority, in collaboration with the advisory board, shall
27 ensure that the strategy and plan preserve the privacy and security of
28 health information, as required by state and federal law.

29 (5) As used in this section, "health information technologies"
30 means a computerized system that provides access to patients' medical
31 records in an electronic format, including e-mail communication,
32 clinical alerts and reminders, and other information technologies as
33 prescribed by the administrator.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The Washington state health care
35 authority shall provide staff support to the advisory board. In
36 addition, all agencies under the control of the governor are directed,

1 and all other agencies are requested, to render full assistance and
2 cooperation to the advisory board.

3 (2) The authority may enter into contracts that are necessary or
4 proper to carry out this act to support the advisory board and the
5 authority in the performance of their duties. Such contracts may be
6 awarded for purposes including, but not limited to, the following:

7 (a) Assessing the existing information technology systems of health
8 care providers, state agencies, and third-party payers;

9 (b) Identifying current national trends in the development of
10 health information systems and standards;

11 (c) Determining the feasibility of integrating and connecting
12 existing systems with emerging and recommended health information
13 standards and technologies; and

14 (d) Identifying available government or private grants for the
15 study of or implementation of health information systems.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The authority, in collaboration with the
17 advisory board, shall submit an interim status report on its
18 preliminary findings by December 1, 2005. A final report of findings
19 and recommendations shall be submitted by December 1, 2006.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act expires December 1, 2006.

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