

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5064**

59th Legislature  
2005 Regular Session

Passed by the Senate April 18, 2005  
YEAS 38 NAYS 0

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**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House April 6, 2005  
YEAS 98 NAYS 0

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**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Approved

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**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Thomas Hoemann, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5064** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

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**Secretary**

FILED

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5064**

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AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2005 Regular Session

**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, health plan representatives, consumers, the  
11 director of the department of information services or the director's  
12 designee, and the agency medical 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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