

SENATE BILL REPORT

SHB 2079

As Reported by Senate Committee On:
Health & Long-Term Care, March 26, 2009

Title: An act relating to the office of financial management's access to health professional licensing information.

Brief Description: Concerning the office of financial management's access to health professional licensing information.

Sponsors: House Committee on Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representatives Cody, Ericksen and Morrell).

Brief History: Passed House: 3/10/09, 96-0.

Committee Activity: Health & Long-Term Care: 3/25/09, 3/26/09 [DPA].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG-TERM CARE

Majority Report: Do pass as amended.

Signed by Senators Keiser, Chair; Franklin, Vice Chair; Pflug, Ranking Minority Member; Becker, Fairley, Marr, Murray and Parlette.

Staff: Mich'l Needham (786-7442)

Background: In 2007 legislation was enacted to implement the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care Costs and Access. As part of this legislation, the Office of Financial Management (OFM) must coordinate a state health planning process and develop a statewide health resources strategy, which must include a health system assessment and objectives component; a health care facilities and services plan that assesses the demand for health care facilities and services; a health care data resource plan; an assessment of emerging trends in health care delivery and technology; and a rural health resource plan.

The initial strategy is due to the Governor and the Legislature by January 1, 2010, and must be updated every two years thereafter. The Department of Health (DOH) must use the statewide health resources strategy to direct its certificate of need activities.

To support its planning activities, OFM must maintain access to de-identified data collected and stored by any public or private organization, including state-purchased health care program data, hospital discharge data, private efforts to collect utilization and claims-related

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data, and any database established pursuant to the recommendations of the Health Information Infrastructure Advisory Board. OFM may store limited data sets as necessary to support its activities. Unless specifically authorized, OFM may not collect data directly from the records of health care providers and facilities, but must make use of databases that have already collected the information. DOH has raised concerns about sharing their data with OFM.

Summary of Bill (Recommended Amendments): OFM must have access to information submitted as part of the health professional licensing and renewal process, excluding Social Security number and background check information, and information submitted as part of the medical or health facility licensing process.

Access to, and use of, the data must comply with state and federal confidentiality laws and ethical guidelines. OFM must maintain the data with the same degree of confidentiality as DOH. When providing the information, DOH must replace any Social Security number with an alternative identifier capable of linking all licensing records of an individual.

The requirement that OFM maintain access to de-identified data collected and stored by any public or private organization is eliminated. The authority to store limited data sets and the prohibition against collecting data directly from the records of health care providers and facilities are also eliminated.

DOH must provide OFM access to the health professional licensing information, excluding social security number and background check information, and the health facility licensing information.

EFFECT OF CHANGES MADE BY HEALTH & LONG-TERM CARE COMMITTEE (Recommended Amendments): DOH must provide OFM access to the health professional licensing information, excluding social security number and background check information, and the health facility licensing information.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony on Substitute House Bill: PRO: This is a clarification to allow OFM to work on the task that was assigned in the Blue Ribbon Commission bill. The language is more specific and more narrowly defined to focus on the data that is needed to work on development of the statewide health resources strategy.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Jonathan Seib, OFM.