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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2079**

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**State of Washington                      61st Legislature                      2009 Regular Session**

**By House Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representatives Cody, Ericksen, and Morrell)**

READ FIRST TIME 02/20/09.

1            AN ACT Relating to the office of financial management's access to  
2 health professional licensing information; and amending RCW 43.370.020.

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

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.370.020 and 2007 c 259 s 51 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6            (1) The office shall serve as a coordinating body for public and  
7 private efforts to improve quality in health care, promote cost-  
8 effectiveness in health care, and plan health facility and health  
9 service availability. In addition, the office shall facilitate access  
10 to health care data collected by public and private organizations as  
11 needed to conduct its planning responsibilities.

12            (2) The office shall:

13            (a) Conduct strategic health planning activities related to the  
14 preparation of the strategy, as specified in this chapter;

15            (b) Develop a computerized system for accessing, analyzing, and  
16 disseminating data relevant to strategic health planning  
17 responsibilities. The office may contract with an organization to  
18 create the computerized system capable of meeting the needs of the  
19 office;

1           (c) (~~Maintain access to deidentified data collected and stored by~~  
2 ~~any public and private organizations as necessary to support its~~  
3 ~~planning responsibilities, including state purchased health care~~  
4 ~~program data, hospital discharge data, and private efforts to collect~~  
5 ~~utilization and claims related data. The office is authorized to enter~~  
6 ~~into any data sharing agreements and contractual arrangements necessary~~  
7 ~~to obtain data or to distribute data. Among the sources of~~  
8 ~~deidentified data that the office may access are any databases~~  
9 ~~established pursuant to the recommendations of the health information~~  
10 ~~infrastructure advisory board established by chapter 261, Laws of 2005.~~  
11 ~~The office may store limited data sets as necessary to support its~~  
12 ~~activities. Unless specifically authorized, the office shall not~~  
13 ~~collect data directly from the records of health care providers and~~  
14 ~~health care facilities, but shall make use of databases that have~~  
15 ~~already collected such information)) Have access to the information  
16 submitted as part of the health professional licensing application and  
17 renewal process, excluding social security number and background check  
18 information, whether the license is issued by the secretary of the  
19 department of health or a board or commission. The office shall also  
20 have access to information submitted to the department of health as  
21 part of the medical or health facility licensing process. Access to  
22 and use of all data shall be in accordance with state and federal  
23 confidentiality laws and ethical guidelines, and the office shall  
24 maintain the same degree of confidentiality as the department of  
25 health. For professional licensing information provided to the office,  
26 the department of health shall replace any social security number with  
27 an alternative identifier capable of linking all licensing records of  
28 an individual; and~~

29           (d) Conduct research and analysis or arrange for research and  
30 analysis projects to be conducted by public or private organizations to  
31 further the purposes of the strategy.

32           (3) The office shall establish a technical advisory committee to  
33 assist in the development of the strategy. Members of the committee  
34 shall include health economists, health planners, representatives of  
35 government and nongovernment health care purchasers, representatives of  
36 state agencies that use or regulate entities with an interest in health  
37 planning, representatives of acute care facilities, representatives of  
38 long-term care facilities, representatives of community-based long-term

1 care providers, representatives of health care providers, a  
2 representative of one or more federally recognized Indian tribes, and  
3 representatives of health care consumers. The committee shall include  
4 members with experience in the provision of health services to rural  
5 communities.

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