
HOUSE BILL 2079

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2009 Regular Session

By Representatives Cody, Ericksen, and Morrell

Read first time 02/09/09. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

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.)) Have access to the information submitted as part of the
13 health professional licensing application and renewal process,
14 excluding background check information, whether the license is issued
15 by the secretary or a board or commission. The office will also have
16 access to information submitted as part of the medical or health
17 facility licensing process. Access to and use of all data shall be in
18 accordance with state and federal confidentiality laws and ethical
19 guidelines and the office will maintain the same degree of
20 confidentiality as the department of health. Unless specifically
21 authorized, the office shall not collect data directly from the records
22 of health care providers and health care facilities, but shall make use
23 of databases that have already collected such information; and~~

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

27 (3) The office shall establish a technical advisory committee to
28 assist in the development of the strategy. Members of the committee
29 shall include health economists, health planners, representatives of
30 government and nongovernment health care purchasers, representatives of
31 state agencies that use or regulate entities with an interest in health
32 planning, representatives of acute care facilities, representatives of
33 long-term care facilities, representatives of community-based long-term
34 care providers, representatives of health care providers, a
35 representative of one or more federally recognized Indian tribes, and
36 representatives of health care consumers. The committee shall include

1 members with experience in the provision of health services to rural
2 communities.

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