
SENATE BILL 5740

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Senators Prentice, Deccio, Franklin, Winsley and Heavey

Read first time 02/03/95. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to preservation of medical records; and amending
2 RCW 70.41.190.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 70.41.190 and 1985 c 213 s 27 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 The legislature finds that, in order to protect the public health
7 and safety, it is necessary that hospitals retain and preserve certain
8 medical records.

9 Unless specified otherwise by the department, a hospital shall
10 retain and preserve all medical records which relate directly to the
11 care and treatment of a patient for a period of no less than ten years
12 following the most recent discharge of the patient; except the records
13 of minors, which shall be retained and preserved for a period of no
14 less than three years following attainment of the age of eighteen
15 years, or ten years following such discharge, whichever is longer.

16 If a hospital ceases operations, it shall make immediate
17 arrangements, as approved by the department, for preservation of its
18 medical records. If a hospital fails to make such arrangements, its
19 medical records shall become the property of the department.

1 The department shall by regulation define the type of records and
2 the information required to be included in the medical records to be
3 retained and preserved under this section; which records may be
4 retained in photographic form pursuant to chapter 5.46 RCW.

--- END ---