
SENATE BILL 5420

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By Senators Muzzall, Schoesler, and Warnick

Read first time 02/03/21. Referred to Committee on Health & Long Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to data reporting requirements for hospitals;
2 adding a new section to chapter 70.41 RCW; adding a new section to
3 chapter 71.12 RCW; creating a new section; and declaring an
4 emergency.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that state data
7 reporting requirements for hospitals are placing unwarranted burdens
8 on the health care system during the national and state emergency
9 related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Further, the legislature finds that
10 a moratorium on state agencies imposing new data and information
11 reporting obligations on hospitals, other than reporting necessary
12 for COVID-19 pandemic patient care and vaccinations, is necessary to
13 allow an assessment of current hospital reporting obligations. The
14 legislature further finds that such an assessment must identify which
15 hospital data reporting obligations need to be modified and whether
16 collecting additional data or information fulfills legislative
17 objectives.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 70.41
19 RCW to read as follows:

1 Until December 31, 2022, or the end of the state of emergency
2 related to the COVID-19 pandemic, whichever is later, the department,
3 the health care authority, or any other state agency may not
4 establish by rule or otherwise any new requirement for a hospital
5 licensed under this chapter to report data or information except as
6 specifically provided in this section. This limitation on
7 establishing new data and information reporting requirements includes
8 data or information related to the health care cost transparency
9 board under chapter 70.390 RCW. The department may establish new data
10 and information reporting requirements reasonably necessary to
11 address the COVID-19 pandemic for patient care and vaccines. Nothing
12 in this section changes the applicability of existing rules regarding
13 hospitals licensed under this chapter reporting data and information
14 to the department, the health care authority, and any other state
15 agencies.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 71.12
17 RCW to read as follows:

18 Until December 31, 2022, or the end of the state of emergency
19 related to the COVID-19 pandemic, whichever is later, the department,
20 the health care authority, or any other state agency may not
21 establish by rule or otherwise any new requirement for a hospital
22 licensed under this chapter to report data or information except as
23 specifically provided in this section. This limitation on
24 establishing new data and information reporting requirements includes
25 data or information related to the health care cost transparency
26 board under chapter 70.390 RCW. The department may establish new data
27 and information reporting requirements reasonably necessary to
28 address the COVID-19 pandemic for patient care and vaccines. Nothing
29 in this section changes the applicability of existing rules regarding
30 hospitals licensed under this chapter reporting data and information
31 to the department, the health care authority, and any other state
32 agencies.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate
34 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
35 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
36 effect immediately.

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