

FINAL BILL REPORT

SB 5635

C 360 L 93

SYNOPSIS AS ENACTED

Brief Description: Modifying procedures regarding disclosure of address of a health professional subject to a disciplinary complaint.

SPONSORS: Senators Niemi and Talmadge

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

BACKGROUND:

Individuals seeking or renewing a health professional credential must provide the Department of Health with a mailing address, telephone number and federal Social Security number. The application and renewal forms used in collecting this information are considered public documents and subject to public inspection and copying. Many health care professionals may be unaware that this information is available to the public.

When a person files a complaint against a credential holder, the disciplinary authority may communicate in writing with the person about the status or disposition of the complaint. Some of these communications have included the home address of the credential holder. There is concern that disclosure of such information makes it easier for a person filing a complaint to locate and harass a credential holder at his or her home.

SUMMARY:

All health professional disciplinary authorities are forbidden from including the address of a credential holder on any written communication with persons filing a complaint against a credential holder. The credentialing authorities for the health professions are required to inform all persons applying or renewing a credential that the address and telephone number they provide on the application or renewal form may be disclosed to the public.

The disciplinary authorities must also not release a license holder's Social Security number to the public. This information may be released to government agencies and disciplinary, investigative and examining organizations.

The public record disclosure statutes are amended to allow a credential holder to request that his or her home address and phone number not be released to the public provided they

supply the Department of Health with an accurate business address and phone number.

After January 1, 1995, the Department of Health shall withhold from public disclosure all license holders' residential addresses and phone numbers if they supply business addresses and phone numbers.

VOTES ON FINAL PASSAGE:

Senate	47	0	
House	93	0	(House amended)
Senate	46	0	(Senate concurred)

EFFECTIVE: May 15, 1993