

---

**Health Care Committee**

---

**HB 1817**

**Brief Description:** Prohibiting the alteration of health care information.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Ruderman, Nixon, Kessler, Dunshee and Murray.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Prohibits the alteration of medical records except to enhance their accuracy and requires that the patient be notified each time a change to a medical record is made.

**Hearing Date:** 3/4/03

**Staff:** Chris Blake (786-7392).

**Background:**

The Uniform Health Care Information Act (Act) prohibits the disclosure of patient information except as the patient provides written authorization to release the information or as other specified exceptions apply. Health care information includes information that can identify the patient and that relates to any care, service, or procedure that a health care provider uses to diagnose, treat, or maintain a patient's physical or mental condition.

The Act allows patients to examine and copy their medical records. A patient may make a written request that the health care provider correct or amend a record if he or she feels that it will enhance its accuracy or completeness. The health care provider may decide whether to make the change to the record or to refuse. If the health care provider refuses to make the change to the medical record, the patient is entitled to add a statement of disagreement to the record.

**Summary of Bill:**

Health care providers, health care facilities, and health carriers are prohibited from altering or revising an original patient record of diagnosis, treatment, condition, or prognosis except to enhance its accuracy. Any changes to a medical record must be dated and identified as a change. The patient must be notified of any changes to their records. Violations are considered unprofessional conduct under the Uniform Disciplinary Act.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not Requested.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.