

SHB 2079 - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Health & Long-Term Care

ADOPTED 04/14/2009

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "Sec. 1. RCW 43.370.020 and 2007 c 259 s 51 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 (1) The office shall serve as a coordinating body for public and
6 private efforts to improve quality in health care, promote cost-
7 effectiveness in health care, and plan health facility and health
8 service availability. In addition, the office shall facilitate access
9 to health care data collected by public and private organizations as
10 needed to conduct its planning responsibilities.

11 (2) The office shall:

12 (a) Conduct strategic health planning activities related to the
13 preparation of the strategy, as specified in this chapter;

14 (b) Develop a computerized system for accessing, analyzing, and
15 disseminating data relevant to strategic health planning
16 responsibilities. The office may contract with an organization to
17 create the computerized system capable of meeting the needs of the
18 office;

19 ~~(c) ((Maintain access to deidentified data collected and stored by~~
20 ~~any public and private organizations as necessary to support its~~
21 ~~planning responsibilities, including state purchased health care~~
22 ~~program data, hospital discharge data, and private efforts to collect~~
23 ~~utilization and claims related data. The office is authorized to enter~~
24 ~~into any data sharing agreements and contractual arrangements necessary~~
25 ~~to obtain data or to distribute data. Among the sources of~~
26 ~~deidentified data that the office may access are any databases~~
27 ~~established pursuant to the recommendations of the health information~~
28 ~~infrastructure advisory board established by chapter 261, Laws of 2005.~~
29 ~~The office may store limited data sets as necessary to support its~~
30 ~~activities. Unless specifically authorized, the office shall not~~

1 ~~collect data directly from the records of health care providers and~~
2 ~~health care facilities, but shall make use of databases that have~~
3 ~~already collected such information)) Have access to the information~~
4 ~~submitted as part of the health professional licensing application and~~
5 ~~renewal process, excluding social security number and background check~~
6 ~~information, whether the license is issued by the secretary of the~~
7 ~~department of health or a board or commission. The office shall also~~
8 ~~have access to information submitted to the department of health as~~
9 ~~part of the medical or health facility licensing process. Access to~~
10 ~~and use of all data shall be in accordance with state and federal~~
11 ~~confidentiality laws and ethical guidelines, and the office shall~~
12 ~~maintain the same degree of confidentiality as the department of~~
13 ~~health. For professional licensing information provided to the office,~~
14 ~~the department of health shall replace any social security number with~~
15 ~~an alternative identifier capable of linking all licensing records of~~
16 ~~an individual; and~~

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

20 (3) The office shall establish a technical advisory committee to
21 assist in the development of the strategy. Members of the committee
22 shall include health economists, health planners, representatives of
23 government and nongovernment health care purchasers, representatives of
24 state agencies that use or regulate entities with an interest in health
25 planning, representatives of acute care facilities, representatives of
26 long-term care facilities, representatives of community-based long-term
27 care providers, representatives of health care providers, a
28 representative of one or more federally recognized Indian tribes, and
29 representatives of health care consumers. The committee shall include
30 members with experience in the provision of health services to rural
31 communities.

32 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.70.050 and 2005 c 274 s 301 are each amended to
33 read as follows:

34 (1) The legislature intends that the department and board promote
35 and assess the quality, cost, and accessibility of health care
36 throughout the state as their roles are specified in chapter 9, Laws of
37 1989 1st ex. sess. in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

1 In furtherance of this goal, the secretary shall create an ongoing
2 program of data collection, storage, assessability, and review. The
3 legislature does not intend that the department conduct or contract for
4 the conduct of basic research activity. The secretary may request
5 appropriations for studies according to this section from the
6 legislature, the federal government, or private sources.

7 (2) All state agencies which collect or have access to population-
8 based, health-related data are directed to allow the secretary access
9 to such data. This includes, but is not limited to, data on needed
10 health services, facilities, and personnel; future health issues;
11 emerging bioethical issues; health promotion; recommendations from
12 state and national organizations and associations; and programmatic and
13 statutory changes needed to address emerging health needs. Private
14 entities, such as insurance companies, health maintenance
15 organizations, and private purchasers are also encouraged to give the
16 secretary access to such data in their possession. The secretary's
17 access to and use of all data shall be in accordance with state and
18 federal confidentiality laws and ethical guidelines. Such data in any
19 form where the patient or provider of health care can be identified
20 shall not be disclosed, subject to disclosure according to chapter
21 42.56 RCW, discoverable or admissible in judicial or administrative
22 proceedings. Such data can be used in proceedings in which the use of
23 the data is clearly relevant and necessary and both the department and
24 the patient or provider are parties.

25 (3) The department shall serve as the clearinghouse for information
26 concerning innovations in the delivery of health care services, the
27 enhancement of competition in the health care marketplace, and federal
28 and state information affecting health care costs.

29 (4) The secretary shall review any data collected, pursuant to this
30 chapter, to:

31 (a) Identify high-priority health issues that require study or
32 evaluation. Such issues may include, but are not limited to:

33 (i) Identification of variations of health practice which indicate
34 a lack of consensus of appropriateness;

35 (ii) Evaluation of outcomes of health care interventions to assess
36 their benefit to the people of the state;

37 (iii) Evaluation of specific population groups to identify needed
38 changes in health practices and services;

1 (iv) Evaluation of the risks and benefits of various incentives
2 aimed at individuals and providers for both preventing illnesses and
3 improving health services;

4 (v) Identification and evaluation of bioethical issues affecting
5 the people of the state; and

6 (vi) Other such objectives as may be appropriate;

7 (b) Further identify a list of high-priority health study issues
8 for consideration by the board, within their authority, for inclusion
9 in the state health report required by RCW 43.20.050. The list shall
10 specify the objectives of each study, a study timeline, the specific
11 improvements in the health status of the citizens expected as a result
12 of the study, and the estimated cost of the study; and

13 (c) Provide background for the state health report required by RCW
14 43.20.050.

15 (5) Any data, research, or findings may also be made available to
16 the general public, including health professions, health associations,
17 the governor, professional boards and regulatory agencies and any
18 person or group who has allowed the secretary access to data.

19 (6) Information submitted as part of the health professional
20 licensing application and renewal process, excluding social security
21 number and background check information, shall be available to the
22 office of financial management consistent with RCW 43.370.020, whether
23 the license is issued by the secretary of the department of health or
24 a board or commission. The department shall replace any social
25 security number with an alternative identifier capable of linking all
26 licensing records of an individual. The office of financial management
27 shall also have access to information submitted to the department of
28 health as part of the medical or health facility licensing process.

29 (7) The secretary may charge a fee to persons requesting copies of
30 any data, research, or findings. The fee shall be no more than
31 necessary to cover the cost to the department of providing the copy."

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1 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "information;" strike the
2 remainder of the title and insert "and amending RCW 43.370.020 and
3 43.70.050."

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