
HOUSE BILL 1021

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Representatives Campbell, Morrell, and Moeller

Prefiled 12/08/08. Read first time 01/12/09. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to prior notice of hospital surveys and audits; and
2 amending RCW 70.41.045.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 70.41.045 and 2004 c 261 s 2 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions
7 in this subsection apply throughout this section.

8 (a) "Agency" means a department of state government created under
9 RCW 43.17.010 and the office of the state auditor.

10 (b) "Audit" means an examination of records or financial accounts
11 to evaluate accuracy and monitor compliance with statutory or
12 regulatory requirements.

13 (c) "Hospital" means a hospital licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW.

14 (d) "Survey" means an inspection, examination, or site visit
15 conducted by an agency to evaluate and monitor the compliance of a
16 hospital or hospital services or facilities with statutory or
17 regulatory requirements.

18 (2) By July 1, 2004, each state agency which conducts hospital
19 surveys or audits shall post to its agency web site a list of the most

1 frequent problems identified in its hospital surveys or audits along
2 with information on how to avoid or address the identified problems,
3 and a person within the agency that a hospital may contact with
4 questions or for further assistance.

5 (3) By July 1, 2004, the department of health, in cooperation with
6 other state agencies which conduct hospital surveys or audits, shall
7 develop an instrument, to be provided to every hospital upon completion
8 of a state survey or audit, which allows the hospital to anonymously
9 evaluate the survey or audit process in terms of quality, efficacy, and
10 the extent to which it supported improved patient care and compliance
11 with state law without placing an unnecessary administrative burden on
12 the hospital. The evaluation may be returned to the department of
13 health for distribution to the appropriate agency. The department of
14 health shall annually compile the evaluations in a report to the
15 legislature.

16 ~~((4) Except when responding to complaints or immediate public
17 health and safety concerns or when such prior notice would conflict
18 with other state or federal law, any state agency that provides notice
19 of a hospital survey or audit must provide such notice to the hospital
20 no less than four weeks prior to the date of the survey or audit.))~~

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