

FINAL BILL REPORT

SB 5011

C 289 L 15
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Addressing third-party payor release of health care information.

Sponsors: Senators Becker, Cleveland, Frockt and Keiser.

Senate Committee on Health Care
House Committee on Health Care & Wellness

Background: The federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 establishes nationwide standards for the use, disclosure, storage, and transfer of protected health information. In Washington the Uniform Health Care Information Act governs the disclosure of health care information by health care providers.

Legislation passed in 2014 (ESSB 6265) modified the requirements for the disclosure of patient health care information, including elimination of duplicative standards for disclosures and streamlining standards related to sharing mental health records between providers. One change was made to allow third-party payors to disclose information only as provided under the Uniform Health Care Information Act, but reference to health care providers was removed, and the section was vetoed by the Governor. The same section of statute was amended in a different bill that established the framework for the All Payer Claims Database (E2SHB 2572) and the broader reference to the Uniform Health Care Information Act was not corrected.

Summary: The Uniform Health Care Information Act is corrected to allow third-party payors to release health care information only to the extent health care providers are authorized to do so under the All Payer Claims Database and the two sections of the Uniform Health Care Information Act that allow providers to release health care information without authorization.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	47	0	
House	96	1	(House amended)
Senate	46	1	(Senate concurred)

Effective: May 18, 2015

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