

# FINAL BILL REPORT

## SSB 5239

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C 131 L 25  
Synopsis as Enacted

**Brief Description:** Concerning the retention of hospital medical records.

**Sponsors:** Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Slatter, Nobles and Wilson, C.).

**Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care**  
**House Committee on Health Care & Wellness**

**Background:** A hospital must retain and preserve all medical records which are directly related to the care and treatment of an adult patient for a minimum of ten years following the most recent discharge of the patient.

Records of minors must be retained and preserved for at least three years following reaching age eighteen, or ten years following discharge, whichever is longer.

**Summary:** A hospital must retain and preserve all medical records for a minimum of 26 years. A hospital may retain such medical records on paper, microfilm, electronically, or other media.

This act applies to medical records created and retained prior to the effective date, as well as those which would have been created on or after the effective date. It does not apply to medical records neither retained nor preserved by the hospital if the hospital complied with the retention requirements that existed prior to the effective date of this act. Hospitals are not exempt from compliance with any other record retention requirements.

**Votes on Final Passage:**

Senate	49	0
House	98	0

**Effective:** July 27, 2025

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*