



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 7376

January Session, 2007

* HB07376PH_APP032307 *

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT HEALTH INFORMATION NETWORK.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2007*) (a) There is established at
2 The University of Connecticut Health Center a Connecticut Health
3 Information Network, which shall securely integrate state health and
4 social services data, consistent with state and federal privacy laws,
5 within and across The University of Connecticut Health Center, the
6 Office of Health Care Access and the Departments of Public Health,
7 Mental Retardation and Children and Families. Data from other state
8 agencies may be integrated into the network as funding permits and as
9 permissible under federal law.

10 (b) The Center for Public Health and Health Policy at The
11 University of Connecticut Health Center, in collaboration with the
12 Departments of Information Technology, Public Health, Mental
13 Retardation, Children and Families and the Office of Health Care
14 Access shall develop, implement and administer the Connecticut
15 Health Information Network.

16 (c) The Connecticut Health Information Network shall develop a
17 framework for creating the Connecticut Community Health Data and
18 Information Portal, which shall be capable of providing (1) access to

19 public use datasets containing information maintained by state
20 agencies and other nongovernmental entities on the health of
21 Connecticut residents, and (2) a platform to query the network to
22 obtain aggregate data on key health indicators within the state. The
23 Connecticut Community Health Data and Information Portal shall be
24 designed to:

25 (A) Provide accurate, timely and accessible health data to public and
26 private sector leaders and policy makers at the state and local level,
27 and inform citizens to improve community and individual health;

28 (B) Adhere to strict confidentiality and privacy standards;

29 (C) Support efforts to reduce health disparities; and

30 (D) Identify the best available data sources and coordinate the
31 compilation of extant health-related data and statistics.

32 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2007*) (a) There is established a
33 Connecticut Health Information Network Governing Board to oversee
34 the Connecticut Health Information Network established under section
35 1 of this act.

36 (b) The governing board shall consist of the following members:

37 (1) One appointed by the Governor, who shall serve as the
38 chairperson;

39 (2) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives
40 who shall be a local director of health;

41 (3) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate who
42 shall be a privacy advocate;

43 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
44 Representatives who shall represent consumers;

45 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of

46 Representatives who shall represent data users;

47 (6) One appointed by The University of Connecticut Health Center;
48 and

49 (7) One each appointed by the Commissioners of Public Health,
50 Mental Retardation, Children and Families and Health Care Access
51 and the Chief Information Officer of the Department of Information
52 Technology, or their designees.

53 (c) All initial appointments to the board shall be made not later than
54 November 30, 2007. The term of each appointed governing board
55 member shall be four years or until a successor is chosen, whichever is
56 later. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

57 (d) The chairperson shall schedule the first meeting of the board,
58 which shall be held not later than December 31, 2007.

59 (e) The governing board shall meet at least once during each
60 calendar quarter and at such other times as the chairperson deems
61 necessary. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum for the
62 transaction of business.

63 (f) The duties and responsibilities of the governing board shall be to:
64 (1) Establish and implement policies, procedures and protocols
65 governing access and dissemination of data through the Connecticut
66 Health Information Network; (2) establish such permanent and ad hoc
67 committees as it deems necessary to facilitate the implementation,
68 operation and maintenance of the network; (3) recommend any
69 legislation necessary for implementation, operation and maintenance
70 of the network; (4) perform all necessary functions to facilitate the
71 coordination and integration of the network; and (5) report annually to
72 the Governor and the General Assembly on the status and operations
73 of the Connecticut Health Information Network, including any
74 recommendations for funding.

75 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2007*) (a) Notwithstanding any

76 provision of chapter 14, 319, 319b, 319o, 319t, 319v or 368a of the
77 general statutes, or any regulation adopted pursuant to said chapters,
78 and subject to federal restrictions on disclosure or redisclosure of such
79 information, the state agencies that participate in the Connecticut
80 Health Information Network may disclose personally identifiable
81 information held in agency databases to the administrator of the
82 Connecticut Health Information Network and its subcontractors for
83 the purposes of (1) network development and verification, and (2) data
84 integration and aggregation to enable response to network queries
85 approved by the commissioner of the department with primary
86 responsibility for collecting or maintaining such information. Such
87 approval shall not be denied unless disclosure of such personally
88 identifiable information to the Connecticut Health Information
89 Network would constitute a violation of federal law, including, but not
90 limited to, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of
91 1996 (P.L. 104-191) (HIPAA), as amended from time to time, and the
92 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, 20 USC 1232g,
93 (FERPA), as amended from time to time, and any regulations
94 promulgated thereunder at 34 CFR Part 99.

95 (b) The Connecticut Health Information Network may use such
96 personally identifiable information for the purposes of (1) matching
97 data across or within participating agency databases, including
98 selected health databases at The University of Connecticut Health
99 Center, and (2) providing data without personally identifiable
100 information in response to queries approved by the Connecticut
101 Health Information Network Governing Board. The network may not
102 redisclose such personally identifiable information, except when and
103 as permitted by written agreements with state agencies or other
104 network contributors that expressly authorize redisclosure of
105 personally identifiable information, subject to all applicable state and
106 federal laws. Neither the network nor any recipient of data from the
107 network may redisclose such data in a manner that would disclose
108 personally identifiable information or the identification of any
109 individual to whom such data pertains.

110 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2007*) (a) There is established a
111 State Consumer Health Information and Policy Advisory Council to
112 assist the Connecticut Health Information Network Governing Board
113 in developing the framework for the Connecticut Community Health
114 Data and Information Portal. The advisory council shall review
115 available health care information in Connecticut and shall recommend
116 improvements to agency health databases in order to facilitate public
117 access to health care information for the purposes of improving public
118 health, informing public health policy and creating transparency of
119 consumer health care information. Such review shall include an
120 inventory of existing health data sources in the state, as well as the
121 procedures used to identify, collect, standardize, share and coordinate
122 health-related data.

123 (b) The State Consumer Health Information and Policy Advisory
124 Council shall consist of the following members:

125 (1) One appointed by the Governor, who shall be an employee of
126 the executive office of the Governor;

127 (2) One each appointed by the Governor, the president pro tempore
128 of the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the majority
129 and minority leaders of the Senate and the House of Representatives
130 all of whom shall be from private sector corporations based in
131 Connecticut that have expertise working with health care providers,
132 insurers, businesses and government to facilitate the use of health data
133 and information to improve the quality, efficiency and safety of health
134 care; and

135 (3) Five appointed by the Governor who shall represent other state
136 and local agencies, institutions of higher education, local health
137 councils, professional healthcare-related associations, foundations or
138 consumers.

139 (c) All initial appointments to the advisory council shall be made
140 not later than December 31, 2007. The term of each appointed advisory

141 council member shall be two years or until a successor is chosen,
 142 whichever is later. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing
 143 authority for the remainder of the term. A majority of members shall
 144 constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Members shall not
 145 be compensated for their services.

146 (d) The member appointed by the Governor pursuant to subdivision
 147 (2) of subsection (b) of this section shall serve as chairperson of the
 148 advisory council. The advisory council may create subcommittees as it
 149 deems appropriate to further the purposes of the advisory council and
 150 shall appoint the members of such subcommittees from among its
 151 members.

152 Sec. 5. (*Effective July 1, 2007*) The sum of two million five hundred
 153 thousand dollars is appropriated to The University of Connecticut
 154 Health Center, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June
 155 30, 2008, for the purpose of establishing and operating the Connecticut
 156 Health Information Network established under section 1 of this act.

157 Sec. 6. (*Effective July 1, 2008*) The sum of two million five hundred
 158 thousand dollars is appropriated to The University of Connecticut
 159 Health Center, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June
 160 30, 2009, for the purpose of operating the Connecticut Health
 161 Information Network established under section 1 of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section

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Joint Favorable Subst. C/R

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