



General Assembly

February Session, 2010

**Raised Bill No. 51**

LCO No. 370

\*00370\_\_\_\_\_INS\*

Referred to Committee on Insurance and Real Estate

Introduced by:  
(INS)

**AN ACT CONCERNING MACHINE-READABLE MEDICAL BENEFITS IDENTIFICATION CARDS.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2010*) (a) Each insurer, health  
2 care center, hospital service corporation, medical service corporation  
3 or other entity that issues medical benefits identification cards on or  
4 after January 1, 2012, to covered persons in this state shall include as  
5 part of such identification cards one or more machine-readable  
6 technology features or components, including, but not limited to, a bar  
7 code, a magnetic strip, a microprocessor chip or other means for the  
8 storage of medical benefits information of such covered persons. Any  
9 such information shall be encoded or encrypted.

10 (b) The Insurance Commissioner, in consultation with the  
11 Commissioner of Public Health, shall adopt regulations, in accordance  
12 with chapter 54 of the general statutes, to establish electronic data  
13 standards for such identification cards, including, but not limited to,  
14 the current coverage status of the person identified on such card and  
15 the medical benefits currently available to such person under such  
16 person's medical benefits plan. The electronic data standards shall

17 include provisions relating to security, privacy, data content,  
18 structures and format and vocabulary, and shall be compatible with  
19 any national or federal data standards.

20 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2010*) (a) On or after January 1,  
21 2012, each health care provider in this state that accepts any medical  
22 benefits plan shall utilize a scanning device to access or read the  
23 medical benefits information contained on the medical benefits  
24 identification cards set forth in section 1 of this act. No such scanning  
25 device shall permanently store information encoded or encrypted on a  
26 medical benefits identification card. "Scanning device" means any  
27 commercial device or combination of devices, including, but not  
28 limited to, a scanner, reader or other electronic device, approved by  
29 the Commissioner of Public Health in accordance with subsection (b)  
30 of this section.

31 (b) The Commissioner of Public Health, in consultation with the  
32 health information technology and exchange advisory committee  
33 established in section 19a-25h of the general statutes and the Insurance  
34 Commissioner, shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54  
35 of the general statutes, to establish the electronic data and other  
36 technological standards for the scanning devices set forth in subsection  
37 (a) of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2010</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2010</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To require the issuance of machine-readable medical benefits identification cards and scanner devices to read or access such cards.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*