



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5415

February Session, 2018



AN ACT CONCERNING THE COLLECTION AND USAGE OF HEALTH EQUITY DATA.

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

1 Section 1. Section 17b-59a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2018*):

3 (a) As used in this section:

4 (1) "Electronic health information system" means an information
5 processing system, involving both computer hardware and software
6 that deals with the storage, retrieval, sharing and use of health care
7 information, data and knowledge for communication and decision
8 making, and includes: (A) An electronic health record that provides
9 access in real time to a patient's complete medical record; (B) a
10 personal health record through which an individual, and anyone
11 authorized by such individual, can maintain and manage such
12 individual's health information; (C) computerized order entry
13 technology that permits a health care provider to order diagnostic and
14 treatment services, including prescription drugs electronically; (D)
15 electronic alerts and reminders to health care providers to improve
16 compliance with best practices, promote regular screenings and other
17 preventive practices, and facilitate diagnoses and treatments; (E) error
18 notification procedures that generate a warning if an order is entered

19 that is likely to lead to a significant adverse outcome for a patient; and
20 (F) tools to allow for the collection, analysis and reporting of data on
21 adverse events, near misses, the quality and efficiency of care, patient
22 satisfaction and other healthcare-related performance measures.

23 (2) "Interoperability" means the ability of two or more systems or
24 components to exchange information and to use the information that
25 has been exchanged and includes: (A) The capacity to physically
26 connect to a network for the purpose of exchanging data with other
27 users; and (B) the capacity of a connected user to access, transmit,
28 receive and exchange usable information with other users.

29 (3) "Standard electronic format" means a format using open
30 electronic standards that: (A) Enable health information technology to
31 be used for the collection of clinically specific data; (B) promote the
32 interoperability of health care information across health care settings,
33 including reporting to local, state and federal agencies; and (C)
34 facilitate clinical decision support.

35 (4) "Health equity data" means demographic data, including, but
36 not limited to, race, ethnicity, primary language, age, gender,
37 socioeconomic position, sexual minority status, disability,
38 homelessness or geographic data that can be used to consider health
39 equity issues.

40 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services, in consultation with the
41 Health Information Technology Officer, shall (1) develop, throughout
42 the Departments of Developmental Services, Public Health, Correction,
43 Children and Families, Veterans Affairs and Mental Health and
44 Addiction Services, uniform management information, uniform
45 statistical information, uniform terminology for similar facilities,
46 uniform electronic health information technology standards and
47 uniform regulations for the licensing of human services facilities, (2)
48 plan for increased participation of the private sector in the delivery of
49 human services, (3) provide direction and coordination to federally
50 funded programs in the human services agencies and recommend

51 uniform system improvements and reallocation of physical resources
52 and designation of a single responsibility across human services
53 agencies lines to eliminate duplication.

54 (c) The Health Information Technology Officer, designated in
55 accordance with section 19a-755, shall, in consultation with the
56 Commissioner of Social Services and the Health Information
57 Technology Advisory Council, established pursuant to section 17b-59f,
58 implement and periodically revise the state-wide health information
59 technology plan established pursuant to this section and shall establish
60 electronic data standards to facilitate the development of integrated
61 electronic health information systems for use by health care providers
62 and institutions that receive state funding. Such electronic data
63 standards shall: (1) Include provisions relating to security, privacy,
64 data content, structures and format, vocabulary and transmission
65 protocols; (2) limit the use and dissemination of an individual's Social
66 Security number and require the encryption of any Social Security
67 number provided by an individual; (3) require privacy standards no
68 less stringent than the "Standards for Privacy of Individually
69 Identifiable Health Information" established under the Health
70 Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, P.L. 104-191, as
71 amended from time to time, and contained in 45 CFR 160, 164; (4)
72 require that individually identifiable health information be secure and
73 that access to such information be traceable by an electronic audit trail;
74 (5) be compatible with any national data standards in order to allow
75 for interstate interoperability; (6) permit the collection of health
76 information in a standard electronic format; and (7) be compatible with
77 the requirements for an electronic health information system.

78 (d) The Health Information Technology Officer shall, within existing
79 resources and in consultation with the State Health Information
80 Technology Advisory Council: (1) Oversee the development and
81 implementation of the State-wide Health Information Exchange in
82 conformance with section 17b-59d; (2) coordinate the state's health
83 information technology and health information exchange efforts to

84 ensure consistent and collaborative cross-agency planning and
85 implementation; and (3) serve as the state liaison to, and work
86 collaboratively with, the State-wide Health Information Exchange
87 established pursuant to section 17b-59d to ensure consistency between
88 the state-wide health information technology plan and the State-wide
89 Health Information Exchange and to support the state's health
90 information technology and exchange goals.

91 (e) The state-wide health information technology plan, implemented
92 and periodically revised pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, shall
93 (1) enhance interoperability to support optimal health outcomes and
94 include, but not be limited to [(1)] (A) general standards and protocols
95 for health information exchange, and [(2)] (B) national data standards
96 to support secure data exchange data standards to facilitate the
97 development of a state-wide, integrated electronic health information
98 system for use by health care providers and institutions that are
99 licensed by the state. Such electronic data standards shall [(A)] (i)
100 include provisions relating to security, privacy, data content,
101 structures and format, vocabulary and transmission protocols, [(B)] (ii)
102 be compatible with any national data standards in order to allow for
103 interstate interoperability, [(C)] (iii) permit the collection of health
104 information in a standard electronic format, and [(D)] (iv) be
105 compatible with the requirements for an electronic health information
106 system; and (2) enhance the ability to collect and utilize health equity
107 data to improve health outcomes and include, but not be limited to,
108 general standards with respect to collection, storage and usage of
109 health equity data. Such standards shall (A) include provisions relating
110 to security, privacy, data content, structures and format and
111 vocabulary, (B) be compatible with any national data standards in
112 order to allow for interstate interoperability, (C) permit the collection
113 of health equity data in a standard electronic format, and (D) be
114 compatible with the requirements for an electronic health information
115 system.

116 (f) Not later than February 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, the

117 Health Information Technology Officer, in consultation with the State
118 Health Information Technology Advisory Council, shall report in
119 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a to the joint standing
120 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
121 relating to human services and public health concerning: (1) The
122 development and implementation of the state-wide health information
123 technology plan and data standards, established and implemented by
124 the Health Information Technology Officer pursuant to this section; (2)
125 the establishment of the State-wide Health Information Exchange; and
126 (3) recommendations for policy, regulatory and legislative changes and
127 other initiatives to promote the state's health information technology
128 and exchange goals.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2018</i>	17b-59a

PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*