

SENATE FILE NO. SF0029

Health care information technology study.

Sponsored by: Joint Labor, Health and Social Services
Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to health care; authorizing a study and
2 development of a plan to establish a uniform statewide
3 health care information and communications technology
4 system; specifying duties of the Wyoming health care
5 commission in conducting the study and plan; requiring
6 recommendations in the plan; requiring reports; providing
7 appropriations; and providing for an effective date.

8

9 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

10

11 **Section 1.**

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13 (a) The Wyoming health care commission shall enter
14 into a contract or contracts to conduct a study on health
15 care information and communication technology in Wyoming.

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1 (b) The commission shall appoint an information
2 technology technical management subcommittee to provide
3 oversight of the contractor's work from the perspective of
4 the ultimate users of the infrastructure. The information
5 technology technical management subcommittee shall consist
6 of seven (7) to thirteen (13) members as determined by the
7 health care commission. The membership shall represent all
8 major participants in the health care delivery and
9 reimbursement systems. A majority of the subcommittee
10 shall be health care providers or employees of health care
11 providers. The subcommittee shall include one (1) or more
12 members of the public as determined by the commission.

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14 (c) The subcommittee chairman shall be appointed by
15 the commission. State agencies shall cooperate with the
16 subcommittee to the extent necessary for the subcommittee
17 to perform its duties under this section.

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19 (d) The subcommittee shall:

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21 (i) Develop and issue a request or requests for
22 proposals from health care information and communications
23 technology contractors to perform the study, to include,
24 but not be limited to:

1

2 (A) An organizational structure for the
3 study;

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5 (B) The feasibility of obtaining a
6 governmental or private grant to assist in funding the
7 study.

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9 (ii) Award a contract or contracts for the
10 performance of the study to a nationally recognized expert
11 or experts in health care information and communications
12 technology;

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14 (iii) Oversee and coordinate contractor
15 performance;

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17 (iv) Provide quarterly progress reports to the
18 health care commission and the joint labor, health and
19 social services interim committee. In addition, an interim
20 status report shall be due to the commission and the
21 committee by November 15, 2004. The subcommittee's final
22 report shall be due to the commission on September 1, 2005.
23 The commission's final report shall evaluate contractor
24 work product and either find the project is not feasible or

1 make appropriate recommendations for implementation of a
2 plan for creation of a health care information and
3 communication technology system to the joint labor, health
4 and social services interim committee no later than October
5 15, 2005;

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7 (v) Widely disseminate requests, including
8 through electronic media, for the active participation of
9 private groups and organizations in the study and
10 development of the plan. Before submitting the final plan
11 to the health care commission, the subcommittee shall issue
12 drafts of the plan for public review and hold at least one
13 (1) public meeting in a central location in the state to
14 receive public comments on the plan.

15

16 (e) The study shall include the following:

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18 (i) Determination of the feasibility of and a
19 plan for developing and deploying a health care information
20 infrastructure system to be used by providers, patients and
21 payors;

22

23 (ii) Identification at an early stage of the
24 study of all major participants in the health care delivery

1 and reimbursement systems who would be affected by a
2 uniform statewide health care information technology and
3 communications system;

4

5 (iii) Identification of organizational
6 structures for the development of an open, flexible and
7 interoperable technology infrastructure and for continued
8 operation and maintenance of the recommended health care
9 information technology system;

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11 (iv) Analysis of existing information technology
12 systems of health care providers, government agencies and
13 third party payors, national trends in the development of
14 the systems, and the feasibility of incorporating existing
15 systems into the recommended health care information
16 technology system;

17

18 (v) Development of recommended organizational
19 and operational documents for the recommended governance
20 structures, such as charters, bylaws and participant
21 contracts;

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23 (vi) Identification of available governmental or
24 private grants for the feasibility study or implementation

1 of a health care information and communication technology
2 system;

3

4 (vii) A timetable for implementation of the
5 technology infrastructure, with an estimate of the costs
6 that would be incurred annually;

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8 (viii) A business plan for financing the
9 development and maintenance of the technology
10 infrastructure, including available governmental and
11 private grants;

12

13 (ix) Identification of potential problems and
14 recommended solutions regarding such matters as privacy,
15 security, federal mandates or preemption and antitrust
16 laws;

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18 (x) An analysis to determine the current
19 capabilities of the Wyoming telecommunications systems to
20 support the type and volume of data transmission required
21 by the recommended health care information and
22 communication technology system. Recommendations to
23 upgrade those systems shall include methods of financing
24 the upgrades.

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2 (f) The recommendations concerning the health care
3 information technology and communications system shall
4 consider the following features:

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6 (i) Provisions to guarantee security and privacy
7 for all health care consumers, providers and other users of
8 the system;

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10 (ii) Provision for an interoperable personal
11 health record, including a unique patient identifier, for
12 all patients;

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14 (iii) Demonstrable and measurable ability to
15 improve the quality of health care, improve patient safety,
16 reduce medical errors and reduce duplication of health care
17 services;

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19 (iv) Ability to gather, store and recall data
20 efficiently and cost effectively;

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22 (v) Ability for providers and patients to
23 quickly access reliable, evidence based, current treatment

1 guidelines, standards and protocols and relate this
2 information to the personal health care records;

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4 (vi) Provisions for individual patients to
5 interact with their personal health records for the
6 awareness of, involvement in and responsibility for their
7 own health and health care costs;

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9 (vii) Ability to provide rapid, point-of-care
10 access to medical information;

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12 (viii) Provisions to enhance public health
13 through such means as population based epidemiological
14 studies, automatic notification of reportable diseases and
15 maintenance of statistical databases and registries.
16 Privacy of individuals shall be maintained in all instances
17 where personal identification is not required for public
18 health necessity;

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20 (ix) Methods for financing initial and
21 continuing system-related costs of health care providers,
22 including the possibility of user fees;

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24 (x) Other features considered appropriate.

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2 **Section 2.** There is appropriated for fiscal year
3 commencing July 1, 2004 two million dollars (\$2,000,000.00)
4 from the general fund to the Wyoming health care commission
5 to procure professional services necessary to conduct a
6 study on health care information and communication
7 technology in Wyoming as provided in this act.

8

9 **Section 3.** This act is effective immediately upon
10 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
11 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
12 Constitution.

13

14

(END)