

1999 ASSEMBLY BILL 427

August 17, 1999 – Introduced by JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. Referred to Committee on Health.

1 AN ACT *to amend* 51.30 (1) (a) and 51.30 (1) (b); and *to create* 146.81 (6) of the
2 statutes; **relating to:** defining “record” for purposes of patient health care and
3 mental health confidentiality statutes.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill is explained in the NOTES provided by the joint legislative council in the bill.

For further information see the *state and local* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

PREFATORY NOTE: This bill was prepared for the joint legislative council's special committee on telemedicine issues.

Section 51.30, stats., relates to access to, and confidentiality of, mental health records. Sections 146.81 to 146.84, stats., relate to general patient health care records. While those statutes use the term “record”, they do not specify the format of the records that are covered. This bill defines “record”, for purposes of those statutes, as “any material on which written, drawn, printed, spoken, visual, electromagnetic or digital information is recorded or preserved, regardless of physical form or characteristics”. The intent of this definition is to ensure that the confidentiality laws cover all formats for patient records.

4 SECTION 1. 51.30 (1) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

