



1999 ASSEMBLY BILL 917

March 22, 2000 - Introduced by Representative UNDERHEIM, cosponsored by Senator MOEN, by request of State Medical Society and the Department of Health and Family Services. Referred to Committee on Health.

1 **AN ACT to repeal** 153.45 (4) and 153.75 (1) (s) of the statutes; **relating to:**
2 eliminating the requirement that the department of health and family services
3 prohibit health care information purchasers from rereleasing individual data
4 elements.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, as affected by 1999 Wisconsin Act 9 (the biennial budget act), the department of health and family services (DHFS) must collect health care information from health care providers, including physicians, hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers, and must analyze and disseminate that information in the form of standard reports, public use data files and custom-designed reports. DHFS may only release public use data files that do not permit the identification of specific patients, employers or health care providers; this identification must be protected by all necessary means, including by the deletion of patient identifiers and the use of calculated and aggregated variables. In addition to these restrictions, numerous other restrictions apply to release by DHFS of information that is submitted by health care providers other than hospitals or ambulatory surgery centers. Lastly, DHFS must prohibit purchasers of data from rereleasing individual data elements of health care data files. DHFS must define "individual data elements" by rule.

This bill eliminates the requirement that DHFS prohibit purchasers of health care information data from rereleasing individual data elements of health care data files.

