2007 SENATE BILL 415

January 24, 2008 – Introduced by Senators SULLIVAN, KREITLOW, SCHULTZ, ROBSON, MILLER, COWLES, LEHMAN, KAPANKE, OLSEN, RISER, ROESSLER, PLALE, HANSEN, LASSA, DARLING, TAYLOR and COGGS, cosponsored by Representatives SHILLING, WIECKERT, VRUWINK, SHERIDAN, MUSSER, RICHARDS, DAVIS, VAN AKKEREN, SUIDER, HEBL, JESKEWITZ, BLACK, POPE-ROBERTS, MASON, MURTHA, GRIGSBY, HILGENBERG, YOUNG, SEIDEL, MOULTON, BENEDICT, BIES, TOWNSEND, BOYLE, PARISI, NEWCOMER, BERCEAU, MURSAU, SOLETSKI, A. OTT, A. WILLIAMS, FIELDS, GUNDERSON, NELSON, NERISON, SINICKI, GARTHWAITE, OWENS, HIXSON, WOOD, KAUFERT and WASSERMAN. Referred to Committee on Public Health, Senior Issues, Long Term Care and Privacy.

AN ACT to amend 146.82 (2) (a) 8.; and to create 20.435 (1) (ae), 255.01 (2m), 255.01 (2n), 255.04 (3) (c), 255.04 (6), 255.04 (7), 255.04 (8), 255.04 (9) and 255.04 (10) of the statutes; relating to: permitting a researcher, under certain conditions, access to cancer information reported to the Department of Health and Family Services, prohibiting certain other use or redisclosure of the information, creating civil liability for violation of the prohibitions, making an appropriation, and providing penalties.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, hospitals, physicians, and certain laboratories must report to the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) information concerning any person who is diagnosed as having cancer or a precancerous condition. Any information that DHFS receives under this requirement that could identify the person or a physician who submits the report is confidential as a patient health care record, except that DHFS may disclose the information to a central tumor registry in another state, if the person who is the subject of the information resides in the other state, or to a national tumor registry.

Beginning July 1, 2008, this bill permits DHFS to disclose otherwise confidential cancer report information to a researcher who requests it, by means of a written application to DHFS, for the purpose of studying cancer, cancer prevention,
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or cancer control or performing other cancer research. The application must include
a written protocol for the proposed research, the researcher’s professional
qualifications, documentation of approval of the research protocol by an institutional
review board that meets certain requirements, and any information requested by
DHFS. These conditions must be met before DHFS may approve the application and
before DHFS may release the information. The bill authorizes DHFS to impose a
reasonable fee on a researcher who obtains information. The fee must be
commensurate with actual direct costs to DHFS and may be waived by DHFS.
Cancer information obtained by DHFS or by a researcher is, under the bill, not
subject to open records requirements. The bill specifically prohibits use of the
information for a purpose other than for performance of research, disclosure of the
information to a person who is not connected with performance of the research, and
revealing in the final research product information that may identify a research
subject, and creates penalties for violation and intentional violation of the
prohibitions. Lastly, the bill creates civil liability to the research subject for any
person who negligently or intentionally violates the prohibitions.

Because this bill creates a new crime or revises a penalty for an existing crime,
the Joint Review Committee on Criminal Penalties may be requested to prepare a
report concerning the proposed penalty and the costs or savings that are likely to
result if the bill is enacted.

For further information see the state 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:

SECTION 1. 20.005 (3) (schedule) of the statutes: at the appropriate place, insert
the following amounts for the purposes indicated:

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<th>Purpose</th>
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<td>(1) Public health services planning, regulation and delivery, state operations</td>
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<td>(ae) Cancer information</td>
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SECTION 2. 20.435 (1) (ae) of the statutes is created to read:
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\section{SECTION 2}
20.435 (1) (ae) \textit{Cancer information.} The amounts in the schedule for cancer information collecting, compiling, and disseminating under s. 255.04.

\section{SECTION 3}
146.82 (2) (a) 8. of the statutes is amended to read:

146.82 (2) (a) 8. To the department under s. 255.04 \textit{and to the persons specified under s. 255.04 (3).} The release of a patient health care record under this subdivision shall be limited to the information prescribed by the department under s. 255.04 (2).

\section{SECTION 4}
255.01 (2m) of the statutes is created to read:

255.01 (2m) \textit{“Research” means a systematic investigation through scientific inquiry, including development, testing, and evaluation, that is designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge.}

\section{SECTION 5}
255.01 (2n) of the statutes is created to read:

255.01 (2n) \textit{“Researcher” means a person who performs research.}

\section{SECTION 6}
255.04 (3) (c) of the statutes is created to read:

255.04 (3) (c) If all of the following conditions are met, a researcher who proposes to conduct research:

1. The researcher applies in writing to the department for approval of access to individually identifiable information under sub. (1) or (5) that is necessary for performance of the proposed research and the department approves the application.

An application under this subdivision shall include all of the following:

a. A written protocol to perform research.

b. The researcher’s professional qualifications to perform the proposed research.

c. Documentation of approval of the research protocol by an institutional review board of a domestic institution that has a federalwide assurance issued by the
office of human research protections of the federal department of health and human
services.

d. Any other information requested by the department.

2. The proposed research is for the purpose of studying cancer, cancer
prevention, or cancer control or performing other cancer research.

SECTION 7. 255.04 (6) of the statutes is created to read:

255.04 (6) The department may impose a reasonable fee on a researcher who,
under sub. (3) (c), obtains information under sub. (1) or (5). The fee shall be
commensurate with the actual direct costs to the department that are associated
with collecting, compiling, and disseminating the information to the researcher and
may be waived by the department.

SECTION 8. 255.04 (7) of the statutes is created to read:

255.04 (7) Information obtained by the department under sub. (1) or (5) or
obtained by a person under sub. (3) (c) is not subject to inspection, copying, or receipt
under s. 19.35 (1).

SECTION 9. 255.04 (8) of the statutes is created to read:

255.04 (8) No person to whom information is disclosed under sub. (3) (c) may
do any of the following:

(a) Use the information for a purpose other than for the performance of
research as specified in the application under sub. (3) (c) 1., as approved by the
department.

(b) Disclose the information to a person who is not connected with performance
of the research.

(c) Reveal in the final research product information that may identify an
individual whose information is disclosed under sub. (3) (c).
SECTION 10. 255.04 (9) of the statutes is created to read:

255.04 (9) Whoever violates sub. (8) (a), (b), or (c) is liable to the subject of the information for actual damages and costs, plus exemplary damages of up to $1,000 for a negligent violation and up to $5,000 for an intentional violation.

SECTION 11. 255.04 (10) of the statutes is created to read:

255.04 (10) (a) Whoever intentionally violates sub. (8) (a), (b), or (c) may be fined not more than $15,000 or imprisoned for not more than one year in the county jail or both.

(b) Any person who violates sub. (8) (a), (b), or (c) may be required to forfeit not more than $100 for each violation. Each day of continued violation constitutes a separate offense, except that no day in the period between the date on which a request for a hearing is filed under s. 227.44 and the date of the conclusion of all administrative and judicial proceedings arising out of a decision under this paragraph constitutes a violation.

(c) The department may directly assess forfeitures under par. (b). If the department determines that a forfeiture should be assessed for a particular violation or for failure to correct the violation, the department shall send a notice of assessment to the alleged violator. The notice shall specify the alleged violation of the statute and the amount of the forfeiture assessed and shall inform the alleged violator of the right to contest the assessment under s. 227.44.


(1) CANCER INFORMATION. The authorized FTE positions for the department of health and family services are increased by 1.0 GPR position on July 1, 2008, to be funded from the appropriation under section 20.435 (1) (ae) of the statutes, as
created by this act, for the purpose of cancer information collecting, compiling, and disseminating.

SECTION 13. Effective date.

(1) This act takes effect on July 1, 2008.

(END)