

By Senator Ring

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to a health information network; creating s. 408.064, F.S.; providing legislative intent; requiring the Agency for Health Care Administration to develop and implement a plan for forming and operating a health information network by a certain date; providing duties and responsibilities of the agency; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 408.064, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

408.064 Florida Health Information Network.--

(1) It is the intent of the Legislature that the state promote the establishment of a privacy-protected and secure integrated statewide network for communicating electronic health information among authorized parties and foster a coordinated public-private initiative for developing and operating Florida's health information infrastructure.

(2) The Agency for Health Care Administration shall promote the development of a health information network as a public-private partnership among the state's providers, payors, consumers, employers, public health officials, medical researchers, and other health care stakeholders. The agency shall develop a plan and performance standards for forming and operating the health information network.

(3) The agency shall:

(a) Institute a statewide health information network in the state by July 1, 2008, by:

1 1. Devising and implementing a strategic plan for
2 infrastructure development and periodically evaluating and
3 modifying that plan.

4 2. Developing and maintaining the technical
5 infrastructure that is necessary to perform the functions of
6 the network consistent with the strategic plan.

7 3. Promoting an integrated approach to efforts to
8 create a secure network for communicating electronic health
9 information in the state.

10 4. Marketing the network to promote widespread use of
11 the network.

12 5. Assisting in developing and expanding existing
13 local or regional health information networks and in creating
14 new networks.

15 (b) Develop and implement specific programs or
16 strategies that address the creation, development, and
17 expansion of regional or local health information networks and
18 the recruitment of participants in the network.

19 (c) Specify standards among regional and local health
20 information networks and other participants to promote
21 effective statewide and interstate interoperability.

22 (d) Regularly assess the adoption of electronic health
23 records systems and the use of the statewide network by
24 providers, consumers, public health officers, and other health
25 care stakeholders in order to identify and regularly
26 reevaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the state's health
27 information infrastructure, assess opportunities to increase
28 consumer access to the consumer's health records, and
29 incorporate such information into its regular strategic
30 planning process.

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