1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to patient access to records; amending 3 s. 394.4615, F.S.; requiring a service provider to 4 furnish and provide access to records within a 5 specified timeframe after receiving a request for such 6 records; requiring that certain service providers 7 furnish such records in the manner chosen by the 8 requester; amending s. 395.3025, F.S.; removing 9 provisions requiring a licensed facility to furnish 10 patient records only after discharge to conform to 11 changes made by the act; revising provisions relating 12 to the appropriate disclosure of patient records without consent; amending s. 397.501, F.S.; requiring 13 14 a service provider to furnish and provide access to 15 records within a specified timeframe after receiving a 16 request from an individual or the individual's legal representative; requiring that certain service 17 providers furnish such records in the manner chosen by 18 the requester; amending s. 400.145, F.S.; revising the 19 timeframe within which a nursing home facility must 20 21 provide access to and copies of resident records after 22 receiving a request for such records; creating s. 23 408.833, F.S.; defining the term "legal 24 representative"; requiring a provider to furnish and 25 provide access to records within a specified timeframe

Page 1 of 21

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26 after receiving a request from a client or the 27 client's legal representative; requiring that certain 28 providers furnish such records in the manner chosen by 29 the requester; authorizing a provider to impose 30 reasonable terms necessary to preserve such records; 31 providing exceptions; amending s. 456.057, F.S.; 32 requiring certain licensed health care practitioners 33 to furnish and provide access to copies of reports and records within a specified timeframe after receiving a 34 35 request from a patient or the patient's legal 36 representative; requiring that certain licensed health 37 care practitioners furnish such reports and records in the manner chosen by the requester; defining the term 38 39 "legal representative"; authorizing such licensed 40 health care practitioners to impose reasonable terms 41 necessary to preserve such reports and records; amending ss. 316.1932, 316.1933, 395.4025, 400.0234, 42 429.294, 440.185, and 456.47, F.S.; conforming cross-43 references; providing an effective date. 44 45 46 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 47 48 Section 1. Subsections (3) through (12) of section 49 394.4615, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (4)

50 through (13), respectively, and a new subsection (3) is added to

Page 2 of 21

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2025

51	that section, to read:
52	394.4615 Clinical records; confidentiality
53	(3) Within 14 working days after receiving a request made
54	in accordance with paragraphs (2)(a)-(c), a service provider
55	must furnish clinical records in its possession. A service
56	provider may furnish the requested records in paper form or,
57	upon request, in an electronic format. A service provider who
58	maintains an electronic health record system shall furnish the
59	requested records in the manner chosen by the requester which
60	must include electronic format, access through a web-based
61	patient portal, or submission through a patient's electronic
62	personal health record.
63	Section 2. Subsections (4) through (11) of section
64	395.3025, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (2)
65	through (9), respectively, and subsections (1), (2), and (3),
66	paragraph (e) of present subsection (4), paragraph (a) of
67	present subsection (7), and present subsection (8) of that
68	section, are amended to read:
69	395.3025 Patient and personnel records; <u>copy costs</u> <del>copies</del> ;
70	examination
71	(1) Any licensed facility shall, upon written request, and
72	only after discharge of the patient, furnish, in a timely
73	manner, without delays for legal review, to any person admitted
74	therein for care and treatment or treated thereat, or to any
75	such person's guardian, curator, or personal representative, or
	Page 3 of 21

76 in the absence of one of those persons, to the next of kin of a 77 decedent or the parent of a minor, or to anyone designated by 78 such person in writing, a true and correct copy of all patient 79 records, including X rays, and insurance information concerning 80 such person, which records are in the possession of the licensed 81 facility, provided the person requesting such records agrees to 82 pay a charge. The exclusive charge for copies of patient records 83 may include sales tax and actual postage, and, except for nonpaper records that are subject to a charge not to exceed \$2, 84 85 may not exceed \$1 per page. A fee of up to \$1 may be charged for each year of records requested. These charges shall apply to all 86 87 records furnished, whether directly from the facility or from a copy service providing these services on behalf of the facility. 88 89 However, a patient whose records are copied or searched for the purpose of continuing to receive medical care is not required to 90 pay a charge for copying or for the search. The licensed 91 92 facility shall further allow any such person to examine the 93 original records in its possession, or microforms or other 94 suitable reproductions of the records, upon such reasonable 95 terms as shall be imposed to assure that the records will not be 96 damaged, destroyed, or altered.

97 (2) This section does not apply to records maintained at
98 any licensed facility the primary function of which is to
99 provide psychiatric care to its patients, or to records of
100 treatment for any mental or emotional condition at any other

Page 4 of 21

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101 licensed facility which are governed by the provisions of s. 102 394.4615. 103 (3) This section does not apply to records of substance 104 abuse impaired persons, which are governed by s. 397.501. 105 (2) (4) Patient records are confidential and must not be 106 disclosed without the consent of the patient or his or her legal 107 representative, but appropriate disclosure may be made without 108 such consent to: 109 (e) The Department of Health agency upon subpoena issued 110 pursuant to s. 456.071, but the records obtained thereby must be 111 used solely for the purpose of the department agency and the 112 appropriate professional board in its investigation, prosecution, and appeal of disciplinary proceedings. If the 113 114 department agency requests copies of the records, the facility 115 shall charge no more than its actual copying costs, including reasonable staff time. The records must be sealed and must not 116 117 be available to the public pursuant to s. 119.07(1) or any other 118 statute providing access to records, nor may they be available 119 to the public as part of the record of investigation for and prosecution in disciplinary proceedings made available to the 120 121 public by the department agency or the appropriate regulatory 122 board. However, the department agency must make available, upon written request by a practitioner against whom probable cause 123 has been found, any such records that form the basis of the 124 125 determination of probable cause.

## Page 5 of 21

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126 (5) (7) (a) If the content of any record of patient 127 treatment is provided under this section, the recipient, if 128 other than the patient or the patient's representative, may use 129 such information only for the purpose provided and may not 130 further disclose any information to any other person or entity, 131 unless expressly permitted by the written consent of the 132 patient. A general authorization for the release of medical 133 information is not sufficient for this purpose. The content of such patient treatment record is confidential and exempt from 134 135 the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State 136 Constitution.

137 <u>(6)(8)</u> Patient records at hospitals and ambulatory 138 surgical centers are exempt from disclosure under s. 119.07(1), 139 except as provided by subsections (2) and (3) <del>(1)-(5)</del>.

Section 3. Paragraphs (a) through (j) of subsection (7) of section 397.501, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (c) through (l), respectively, and new paragraphs (a) and (b) are added to that subsection, to read:

144 397.501 Rights of individuals.—Individuals receiving 145 substance abuse services from any service provider are 146 guaranteed protection of the rights specified in this section, 147 unless otherwise expressly provided, and service providers must 148 ensure the protection of such rights.

149 (7) RIGHT TO <u>ACCESS AND</u> CONFIDENTIALITY OF INDIVIDUAL 150 RECORDS.-

#### Page 6 of 21

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151	(a) Within 14 working days after receiving a written
152	request from an individual or an individual's legal
153	representative, a service provider shall furnish a true and
154	correct copy of all records in the possession of the service
155	provider. The service provider may furnish the requested records
156	in paper form or, upon request, in an electronic format. A
157	service provider that maintains an electronic health record
158	system shall furnish the requested records in the manner chosen
159	by the requester which must include electronic format, access
160	through a web-based patient portal, or submission through a
161	patient's electronic personal health record. For purposes of
162	this section, the term "legal representative" has the same
163	meaning as provided in s. 408.833(1).
164	(b) Within 10 working days after receiving such a request
165	from an individual or an individual's legal representative, a
166	service provider shall provide access to examine the original
167	records in its possession, or microforms or other suitable
168	reproductions of the records. The service provider may impose
169	any reasonable terms necessary to ensure that the records will
170	not be damaged, destroyed, or altered.
171	Section 4. Subsection (1) of section 400.145, Florida
172	Statutes, is amended to read:
173	400.145 Copies of records of care and treatment of
174	resident
175	(1) Upon receipt of a written request that complies with
	Page 7 of 21

2025

176 the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act 177 of 1996 (HIPAA) and this section, a nursing home facility shall 178 furnish to a competent resident, or to a representative of that resident who is authorized to make requests for the resident's 179 180 records under HIPAA or subsection (2), copies of the resident's 181 paper and electronic records that are in possession of the 182 facility. Such records must include any medical records and 183 records concerning the care and treatment of the resident performed by the facility, except for progress notes and 184 185 consultation report sections of a psychiatric nature. The facility shall provide a resident with access to the requested 186 187 records within 24 hours, excluding weekends and holidays, and 188 provide copies of the requested records within 2 14 working days 189 after receipt of a request relating to a current resident or 190 within 30 working days after receipt of a request relating to a 191 former resident. 192 Section 5. Section 408.833, Florida Statutes, is created 193 to read: 194 408.833 Client access to medical records.-195 (1) For purposes of this section, the term "legal 196 representative" means an attorney who has been designated by a 197 client to receive copies of the client's medical, care and 198 treatment, or interdisciplinary records; a legally recognized 199 guardian of the client; a court-appointed representative of the 200 client; or a person designated by the client or by a court of

Page 8 of 21

2025

201	competent jurisdiction to receive copies of the client's
202	medical, care and treatment, or interdisciplinary records.
203	(2) Within 14 working days after receiving a written
204	request from a client or client's legal representative, a
205	provider shall furnish a true and correct copy of all records,
206	including medical, care and treatment, and interdisciplinary
207	records, as applicable, in the possession of the provider. A
208	provider may furnish the requested records in paper form or,
209	upon request, in an electronic format. A provider that maintains
210	an electronic health record system shall furnish the requested
211	records in the manner chosen by the requester which must include
212	electronic format, access through a web-based patient portal, or
213	submission through a patient's electronic personal health
214	record.
215	(3) Within 10 working days after receiving a request from
216	a client or a client's legal representative, a provider shall
217	provide access to examine the original records in its
218	possession, or microforms or other suitable reproductions of the
219	records. A provider may impose any reasonable terms necessary to
220	ensure that the records will not be damaged, destroyed, or
221	altered.
222	(4) This section does not apply to:
223	(a) Records maintained at a licensed facility, as defined
224	in s. 395.002, the primary function of which is to provide
225	psychiatric care to its patients, or to records of treatment for
	Page 9 of 21

226 any mental or emotional condition at any other licensed facility 227 which are governed by s. 394.4615; 228 Records of substance abuse impaired persons which are (b) 229 governed by s. 397.501; or (c) Records of a resident of a nursing home facility. 230 231 Section 6. Subsection (6) of section 456.057, Florida 232 Statutes, is amended to read: 233 456.057 Ownership and control of patient records; report 234 or copies of records to be furnished; disclosure of 235 information.-(6) (a) Any health care practitioner licensed by the 236 237 department or a board within the department who makes a physical 238 or mental examination of, or administers treatment or dispenses 239 legend drugs to, any patient person shall, upon request of such 240 patient person or the patient's person's legal representative, 241 furnish, within 14 working days after such request in a timely 242 manner, without delays for legal review, copies of all reports 243 and records relating to such examination or treatment, including 244 X rays and insurance information. A health care practitioner may 245 furnish the requested reports and records in paper form or, upon 246 request, in an electronic format. A health care practitioner who 247 maintains an electronic health record system shall furnish the 248 requested reports and records in the manner chosen by the 249 requester which must include electronic format, access through a 250 web-based patient portal, or submission through a patient's

Page 10 of 21

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251 electronic personal health record. For purposes of this section, 252 the term "legal representative" means a patient's attorney who 253 has been designated by the patient to receive copies of the 254 patient's medical records, a legally recognized guardian of the patient, a court-appointed representative of the patient, or any 255 256 other person designated by the patient or by a court of 257 competent jurisdiction to receive copies of the patient's 258 medical records. 259 (b) Within 10 working days after receiving a written 260 request by a patient or a patient's legal representative, a 261 healthcare practitioner must provide access to examine the 262 original reports and records, or microforms or other suitable 263 reproductions of the reports and records in the healthcare 264 practitioner's possession. The healthcare practitioner may 265 impose any reasonable terms necessary to ensure that the reports 266 and records will not be damaged, destroyed, or altered.

267 However, When a patient's psychiatric, chapter 490 (C) 268 psychological, or chapter 491 psychotherapeutic records are 269 requested by the patient or the patient's legal representative, 270 the health care practitioner may provide a report of examination 271 and treatment in lieu of copies of records. Upon a patient's 272 written request, complete copies of the patient's psychiatric 273 records shall be provided directly to a subsequent treating 274 psychiatrist. The furnishing of such report or copies may shall not be conditioned upon payment of a fee for services rendered. 275

### Page 11 of 21

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276 Section 7. Paragraph (f) of subsection (1) of section 277 316.1932, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 278 316.1932 Tests for alcohol, chemical substances, or 279 controlled substances; implied consent; refusal.-280 (1)281 (f)1. The tests determining the weight of alcohol in the 282 defendant's blood or breath shall be administered at the request 283 of a law enforcement officer substantially in accordance with rules of the Department of Law Enforcement. Such rules must 284 285 specify precisely the test or tests that are approved by the Department of Law Enforcement for reliability of result and ease 286

of administration, and must provide an approved method of administration which must be followed in all such tests given under this section. However, the failure of a law enforcement officer to request the withdrawal of blood does not affect the admissibility of a test of blood withdrawn for medical purposes.

292 Only a physician, certified paramedic, registered 2.a. 293 nurse, licensed practical nurse, other personnel authorized by a 294 hospital to draw blood, or duly licensed clinical laboratory 295 director, supervisor, technologist, or technician, acting at the 296 request of a law enforcement officer, may withdraw blood for the 297 purpose of determining its alcoholic content or the presence of chemical substances or controlled substances therein. However, 298 the failure of a law enforcement officer to request the 299 300 withdrawal of blood does not affect the admissibility of a test

#### Page 12 of 21

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301 of blood withdrawn for medical purposes.

302 Notwithstanding any provision of law pertaining to the b. 303 confidentiality of hospital records or other medical records, if 304 a health care provider, who is providing medical care in a 305 health care facility to a person injured in a motor vehicle crash, becomes aware, as a result of any blood test performed in 306 307 the course of that medical treatment, that the person's blood-308 alcohol level meets or exceeds the blood-alcohol level specified in s. 316.193(1)(b), the health care provider may notify any law 309 310 enforcement officer or law enforcement agency. Any such notice must be given within a reasonable time after the health care 311 312 provider receives the test result. Any such notice shall be used only for the purpose of providing the law enforcement officer 313 314 with reasonable cause to request the withdrawal of a blood 315 sample pursuant to this section.

316 c. The notice shall consist only of the name of the person 317 being treated, the name of the person who drew the blood, the 318 blood-alcohol level indicated by the test, and the date and time 319 of the administration of the test.

320 d. Nothing contained in <u>s. 395.3025(2)</u> <del>s. 395.3025(4)</del>, s. 321 456.057, or any applicable practice act affects the authority to 322 provide notice under this section, and the health care provider 323 is not considered to have breached any duty owed to the person 324 under <u>s. 395.3025(2)</u> <del>s. 395.3025(4)</del>, s. 456.057, or any 325 applicable practice act by providing notice or failing to

### Page 13 of 21

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326 provide notice. It shall not be a breach of any ethical, moral, 327 or legal duty for a health care provider to provide notice or 328 fail to provide notice.

e. A civil, criminal, or administrative action may not be 329 330 brought against any person or health care provider participating in good faith in the provision of notice or failure to provide 331 332 notice as provided in this section. Any person or health care 333 provider participating in the provision of notice or failure to provide notice as provided in this section shall be immune from 334 any civil or criminal liability and from any professional 335 336 disciplinary action with respect to the provision of notice or 337 failure to provide notice under this section. Any such 338 participant has the same immunity with respect to participating 339 in any judicial proceedings resulting from the notice or failure 340 to provide notice.

The person tested may, at his or her own expense, have 341 3. 342 a physician, registered nurse, other personnel authorized by a 343 hospital to draw blood, or duly licensed clinical laboratory 344 director, supervisor, technologist, or technician, or other 345 person of his or her own choosing administer an independent test 346 in addition to the test administered at the direction of the law enforcement officer for the purpose of determining the amount of 347 alcohol in the person's blood or breath or the presence of 348 chemical substances or controlled substances at the time 349 alleged, as shown by chemical analysis of his or her blood or 350

### Page 14 of 21

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351 urine, or by chemical or physical test of his or her breath. The 352 failure or inability to obtain an independent test by a person 353 does not preclude the admissibility in evidence of the test taken at the direction of the law enforcement officer. The law 354 355 enforcement officer shall not interfere with the person's 356 opportunity to obtain the independent test and shall provide the 357 person with timely telephone access to secure the test, but the 358 burden is on the person to arrange and secure the test at the 359 person's own expense.

4. Upon the request of the person tested, full information concerning the results of the test taken at the direction of the law enforcement officer shall be made available to the person or his or her attorney. Full information is limited to the following:

365 a. The type of test administered and the procedures366 followed.

367 b. The time of the collection of the blood or breath368 sample analyzed.

369 c. The numerical results of the test indicating the370 alcohol content of the blood and breath.

371 d. The type and status of any permit issued by the
372 Department of Law Enforcement which was held by the person who
373 performed the test.

e. If the test was administered by means of a breathtesting instrument, the date of performance of the most recent

### Page 15 of 21

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377

376 required inspection of such instrument.

378 Full information does not include manuals, schematics, or 379 software of the instrument used to test the person or any other 380 material that is not in the actual possession of the state. 381 Additionally, full information does not include information in 382 the possession of the manufacturer of the test instrument.

383 A hospital, clinical laboratory, medical clinic, or 5. similar medical institution or physician, certified paramedic, 384 385 registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, other personnel authorized by a hospital to draw blood, or duly licensed 386 387 clinical laboratory director, supervisor, technologist, or 388 technician, or other person assisting a law enforcement officer 389 does not incur any civil or criminal liability as a result of 390 the withdrawal or analysis of a blood or urine specimen, or the 391 chemical or physical test of a person's breath pursuant to accepted medical standards when requested by a law enforcement 392 393 officer, regardless of whether or not the subject resisted 394 administration of the test.

395Section 8. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section396316.1933, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

397 316.1933 Blood test for impairment or intoxication in 398 cases of death or serious bodily injury; right to use reasonable 399 force.-

400

(2)(a) Only a physician, certified paramedic, registered

#### Page 16 of 21

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401 nurse, licensed practical nurse, other personnel authorized by a 402 hospital to draw blood, or duly licensed clinical laboratory 403 director, supervisor, technologist, or technician, acting at the request of a law enforcement officer, may withdraw blood for the 404 405 purpose of determining the alcoholic content thereof or the presence of chemical substances or controlled substances 406 407 therein. However, the failure of a law enforcement officer to 408 request the withdrawal of blood shall not affect the 409 admissibility of a test of blood withdrawn for medical purposes.

410 Notwithstanding any provision of law pertaining to the 1. 411 confidentiality of hospital records or other medical records, if 412 a health care provider, who is providing medical care in a 413 health care facility to a person injured in a motor vehicle 414 crash, becomes aware, as a result of any blood test performed in the course of that medical treatment, that the person's blood-415 416 alcohol level meets or exceeds the blood-alcohol level specified 417 in s. 316.193(1)(b), the health care provider may notify any law 418 enforcement officer or law enforcement agency. Any such notice 419 must be given within a reasonable time after the health care provider receives the test result. Any such notice shall be used 420 421 only for the purpose of providing the law enforcement officer 422 with reasonable cause to request the withdrawal of a blood sample pursuant to this section. 423

424 2. The notice shall consist only of the name of the person425 being treated, the name of the person who drew the blood, the

## Page 17 of 21

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426 blood-alcohol level indicated by the test, and the date and time 427 of the administration of the test.

428 3. Nothing contained in s. 395.3025(2) s. 395.3025(4), s. 456.057, or any applicable practice act affects the authority to 429 430 provide notice under this section, and the health care provider 431 is not considered to have breached any duty owed to the person 432 under s. 395.3025(2) s. 395.3025(4), s. 456.057, or any 433 applicable practice act by providing notice or failing to provide notice. It shall not be a breach of any ethical, moral, 434 435 or legal duty for a health care provider to provide notice or 436 fail to provide notice.

4. A civil, criminal, or administrative action may not be 437 438 brought against any person or health care provider participating 439 in good faith in the provision of notice or failure to provide 440 notice as provided in this section. Any person or health care provider participating in the provision of notice or failure to 441 442 provide notice as provided in this section shall be immune from 443 any civil or criminal liability and from any professional 444 disciplinary action with respect to the provision of notice or 445 failure to provide notice under this section. Any such 446 participant has the same immunity with respect to participating 447 in any judicial proceedings resulting from the notice or failure to provide notice. 448

Section 9. Subsection (13) of section 395.4025, Florida
Statutes, is amended to read:

Page 18 of 21

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451 395.4025 Trauma centers; selection; quality assurance; 452 records.-

453 (13)Patient care, transport, or treatment records or 454 reports, or patient care quality assurance proceedings, records, or reports obtained or made pursuant to this section, s. 455 395.3025(2)(f) s. 395.3025(4)(f), s. 395.401, s. 395.4015, s. 456 457 395.402, s. 395.403, s. 395.404, s. 395.4045, s. 395.405, s. 458 395.50, or s. 395.51 must be held confidential by the department 459 or its agent and are exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1). 460 Patient care quality assurance proceedings, records, or reports obtained or made pursuant to these sections are not subject to 461 462 discovery or introduction into evidence in any civil or 463 administrative action.

464 Section 10. Subsection (1) of section 400.0234, Florida
465 Statutes, is amended to read:

466 400.0234 Availability of facility records for 467 investigation of resident's rights violations and defenses; 468 penalty.-

(1) Failure to provide complete copies of a resident's records, including, but not limited to, all medical records and the resident's chart, within the control or possession of the facility in accordance with <u>s. 408.833</u> <del>s. 400.145</del> shall constitute evidence of failure of that party to comply with good faith discovery requirements and shall waive the good faith certificate and presuit notice requirements under this part by

### Page 19 of 21

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476	the requesting party.
477	Section 11. Subsection (1) of section 429.294, Florida
478	Statutes, is amended to read:
479	429.294 Availability of facility records for investigation
480	of resident's rights violations and defenses; penalty
481	(1) Failure to provide complete copies of a resident's
482	records, including, but not limited to, all medical records and
483	the resident's chart, within the control or possession of the
484	facility in accordance with <u>s. 408.833</u> <del>s. 400.145</del> , shall
485	constitute evidence of failure of that party to comply with good
486	faith discovery requirements and shall waive the good faith
487	certificate and presuit notice requirements under this part by
488	the requesting party.
489	Section 12. Subsection (4) of section 440.185, Florida
490	Statutes, is amended to read:
491	440.185 Notice of injury or death; reports; penalties for
492	violations
493	(4) Additional reports with respect to such injury and of
494	the condition of such employee, including copies of medical
495	reports, funeral expenses, and wage statements, shall be filed
496	by the employer or carrier to the department at such times and
497	in such manner as the department may prescribe by rule. In
498	carrying out its responsibilities under this chapter, the
499	department or agency may by rule provide for the obtaining of
500	any medical records relating to medical treatment provided
	Page 20 of 21

2025

501 pursuant to this chapter, notwithstanding the provisions of ss. 502 90.503 and 395.3025(2) 395.3025(4). 503 Section 13. Subsection (3) of section 456.47, Florida 504 Statutes, is amended to read: 505 456.47 Use of telehealth to provide services.-506 RECORDS.-A telehealth provider shall document in the (3) 507 patient's medical record the health care services rendered using 508 telehealth according to the same standard as used for in-person 509 services. Medical records, including video, audio, electronic, or other records generated as a result of providing such 510 511 services, are confidential pursuant to ss. 395.3025(2) and 512 456.057 ss. 395.3025(4) and 456.057. 513 Section 14. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

Page 21 of 21