By Senator Grall

	29-01058A-25 20251606_
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
13	without consent; amending s. 397.501, F.S.; requiring
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
17	representative; requiring that certain service
18	providers furnish such records in the manner chosen by
19	the requester; amending s. 400.145, F.S.; revising the
20	timeframe within which a nursing home facility must
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
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

Page 1 of 18

29-01058A-25 20251606 30 reasonable terms necessary to preserve such records; 31 providing exceptions; amending s. 456.057, F.S.; 32 requiring certain licensed health care practitioners to furnish and provide access to copies of reports and 33 34 records within a specified timeframe after receiving a request from a patient or the patient's legal 35 36 representative; requiring that certain licensed health 37 care practitioners furnish such reports and records in 38 the manner chosen by the requester; defining the term 39 "legal representative"; authorizing such licensed 40 health care practitioners to impose reasonable terms 41 necessary to preserve such reports and records; 42 amending ss. 316.1932, 316.1933, 395.4025, 400.0234, 429.294, 440.185, and 456.47, F.S.; conforming cross-43 44 references; providing an effective date. 45 46 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 47 Section 1. Subsections (3) through (12) of section 48 49 394.4615, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (4) 50 through (13), respectively, and a new subsection (3) is added to 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

Page 2 of 18

	29-01058A-25 20251606
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> copies ;
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
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
84	nonpaper records that are subject to a charge not to exceed \$2,
85	may not exceed \$1 per page. A fee of up to \$1 may be charged for
86	each year of records requested. These charges shall apply to all
87	records furnished, whether directly from the facility or from a

Page 3 of 18

29-01058A-25 20251606 88 copy service providing these services on behalf of the facility. 89 However, a patient whose records are copied or searched for the purpose of continuing to receive medical care is not required to 90 91 pay a charge for copying or for the search. The licensed 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

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 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 <u>(2)(4)</u> 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:

(e) The Department of Health agency upon subpoena issued 109 pursuant to s. 456.071, but the records obtained thereby must be 110 111 used solely for the purpose of the department agency and the appropriate professional board in its investigation, 112 113 prosecution, and appeal of disciplinary proceedings. If the 114 department agency requests copies of the records, the facility 115 shall charge no more than its actual copying costs, including 116 reasonable staff time. The records must be sealed and must not

Page 4 of 18

29-01058A-25 20251606 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 120 prosecution in disciplinary proceedings made available to the 121 public by the department agency or the appropriate regulatory 122 board. However, the department agency must make available, upon 123 written request by a practitioner against whom probable cause 124 has been found, any such records that form the basis of the 125 determination of probable cause. 126 (5)(a) - (7)(a) If the content of any record of patient 127 treatment is provided under this section, the recipient, if other than the patient or the patient's representative, may use 128 129 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

134 such patient treatment record is confidential and exempt from 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 surgical 138 centers are exempt from disclosure under s. 119.07(1), except as 139 provided by subsections <u>(2) and (3)</u> (1)-(5).

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 receiving145 substance abuse services from any service provider are

Page 5 of 18

	29-01058A-25 20251606
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 ACCESS AND CONFIDENTIALITY OF INDIVIDUAL
150	RECORDS
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

Page 6 of 18

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29-01058A-25 20251606 175 (1) Upon receipt of a written request that complies with 176 the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act 177 of 1996 (HIPAA) and this section, a nursing home facility shall furnish to a competent resident, or to a representative of that 178 179 resident who is authorized to make requests for the resident's 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 186 facility shall provide a resident with access to the requested 187 records within 24 hours, excluding weekends and holidays, and 188 provide copies of the requested records within 2 14 working days after receipt of a request relating to a current resident or 189 190 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 to 193 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 201 competent jurisdiction to receive copies of the client's medical, care and treatment, or interdisciplinary records. 202 203 (2) Within 14 working days after receiving a written

Page 7 of 18

	29-01058A-25 20251606
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 a
216	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
226	any mental or emotional condition at any other licensed facility
227	which are governed by s. 394.4615;
228	(b) Records of substance abuse impaired persons which are
229	governed by s. 397.501; or
230	(c) Records of a resident of a nursing home facility.
231	Section 6. Subsection (6) of section 456.057, Florida
232	Statutes, is amended to read:

Page 8 of 18

29-01058A-25 20251606 233 456.057 Ownership and control of patient records; report or 234 copies of records to be furnished; disclosure of information.-235 (6) (a) Any health care practitioner licensed by the 236 department or a board within the department who makes a physical 237 or mental examination of, or administers treatment or dispenses 238 legend drugs to, any patient person shall, upon request of such 239 patient person or the patient's person's legal representative, 240 furnish, within 14 working days after such request in a timely manner, without delays for legal review, copies of all reports 241 242 and records relating to such examination or treatment, including 243 X rays and insurance information. A health care practitioner may 244 furnish the requested reports and records in paper form or, upon 245 request, in an electronic format. A health care practitioner who 246 maintains an electronic health record system shall furnish the 247 requested reports and records in the manner chosen by the 248 requester which must include electronic format, access through a 249 web-based patient portal, or submission through a patient's 250 electronic personal health record. For purposes of this section, 251 the term "legal representative" means a patient's attorney who 252 has been designated by the patient to receive copies of the 253 patient's medical records, a legally recognized guardian of the 254 patient, a court-appointed representative of the patient, or any 255 other person designated by the patient or by a court of 256 competent jurisdiction to receive copies of the patient's 257 medical records. 2.58 (b) Within 10 working days after receiving a written 259 request by a patient or a patient's legal representative, a 260 healthcare practitioner must provide access to examine the original reports and records, or microforms or other suitable 261

Page 9 of 18

I	29-01058A-25 20251606
262	reproductions of the reports and records in the healthcare
263	practitioner's possession. The healthcare practitioner may
264	impose any reasonable terms necessary to ensure that the reports
265	and records will not be damaged, destroyed, or altered.
266	(c) However, When a patient's psychiatric, chapter 490
267	psychological, or chapter 491 psychotherapeutic records are
268	requested by the patient or the patient's legal representative,
269	the health care practitioner may provide a report of examination
270	and treatment in lieu of copies of records. Upon a patient's
271	written request, complete copies of the patient's psychiatric
272	records shall be provided directly to a subsequent treating
273	psychiatrist. The furnishing of such report or copies <u>may</u> shall
274	not be conditioned upon payment of a fee for services rendered.
275	Section 7. Paragraph (f) of subsection (1) of section
276	316.1932, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
277	316.1932 Tests for alcohol, chemical substances, or
278	controlled substances; implied consent; refusal
279	(1)
280	(f)1. The tests determining the weight of alcohol in the
281	defendant's blood or breath shall be administered at the request
282	of a law enforcement officer substantially in accordance with
283	rules of the Department of Law Enforcement. Such rules must
284	specify precisely the test or tests that are approved by the
285	Department of Law Enforcement for reliability of result and ease
286	of administration, and must provide an approved method of
287	administration which must be followed in all such tests given
288	under this section. However, the failure of a law enforcement
289	officer to request the withdrawal of blood does not affect the
290	admissibility of a test of blood withdrawn for medical purposes.

Page 10 of 18

29-01058A-25

20251606

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

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

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

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d. Nothing contained in <u>s. 395.3025(2)</u> s. 395.3025(4), s.

Page 11 of 18

29-01058A-25 20251606 320 456.057, or any applicable practice act affects the authority to 321 provide notice under this section, and the health care provider 322 is not considered to have breached any duty owed to the person 323 under s. 395.3025(2) s. 395.3025(4), s. 456.057, or any 324 applicable practice act by providing notice or failing to 325 provide notice. It shall not be a breach of any ethical, moral, 326 or legal duty for a health care provider to provide notice or 327 fail to provide notice. 328 e. A civil, criminal, or administrative action may not be 329 brought against any person or health care provider participating 330 in good faith in the provision of notice or failure to provide 331 notice as provided in this section. Any person or health care 332 provider participating in the provision of notice or failure to 333 provide notice as provided in this section shall be immune from 334 any civil or criminal liability and from any professional 335 disciplinary action with respect to the provision of notice or 336 failure to provide notice under this section. Any such 337 participant has the same immunity with respect to participating 338 in any judicial proceedings resulting from the notice or failure 339 to provide notice. 340 3. The person tested may, at his or her own expense, have a 341 physician, registered nurse, other personnel authorized by a 342 hospital to draw blood, or duly licensed clinical laboratory 343 director, supervisor, technologist, or technician, or other

344 person of his or her own choosing administer an independent test 345 in addition to the test administered at the direction of the law 346 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

Page 12 of 18

29-01058A-25 20251606 349 alleged, as shown by chemical analysis of his or her blood or 350 urine, or by chemical or physical test of his or her breath. The 351 failure or inability to obtain an independent test by a person 352 does not preclude the admissibility in evidence of the test 353 taken at the direction of the law enforcement officer. The law 354 enforcement officer shall not interfere with the person's 355 opportunity to obtain the independent test and shall provide the 356 person with timely telephone access to secure the test, but the 357 burden is on the person to arrange and secure the test at the 358 person's own expense. 359 4. Upon the request of the person tested, full information 360 concerning the results of the test taken at the direction of the 361 law enforcement officer shall be made available to the person or 362 his or her attorney. Full information is limited to the 363 following: 364 a. The type of test administered and the procedures 365 followed. 366 b. The time of the collection of the blood or breath sample 367 analyzed. 368 c. The numerical results of the test indicating the alcohol 369 content of the blood and breath. 370 d. The type and status of any permit issued by the 371 Department of Law Enforcement which was held by the person who 372 performed the test. 373 e. If the test was administered by means of a breath 374 testing instrument, the date of performance of the most recent 375 required inspection of such instrument. 376 Full information does not include manuals, schematics, or 377

Page 13 of 18

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29-01058A-25 20251606 378 software of the instrument used to test the person or any other 379 material that is not in the actual possession of the state. 380 Additionally, full information does not include information in 381 the possession of the manufacturer of the test instrument. 382 5. A hospital, clinical laboratory, medical clinic, or 383 similar medical institution or physician, certified paramedic, 384 registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, other personnel 385 authorized by a hospital to draw blood, or duly licensed 386 clinical laboratory director, supervisor, technologist, or 387 technician, or other person assisting a law enforcement officer 388 does not incur any civil or criminal liability as a result of 389 the withdrawal or analysis of a blood or urine specimen, or the 390 chemical or physical test of a person's breath pursuant to 391 accepted medical standards when requested by a law enforcement 392 officer, regardless of whether or not the subject resisted 393 administration of the test. 394 Section 8. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 395 316.1933, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 396 316.1933 Blood test for impairment or intoxication in cases

397 of death or serious bodily injury; right to use reasonable 398 force.-399 (2)(a) Only a physician, certified paramedic, registered

nurse, licensed practical nurse, other personnel authorized by a hospital to draw blood, or duly licensed clinical laboratory director, supervisor, technologist, or technician, acting at the request of a law enforcement officer, may withdraw blood for the purpose of determining the alcoholic content thereof or the presence of chemical substances or controlled substances therein. However, the failure of a law enforcement officer to

Page 14 of 18

29-01058A-25 20251606 407 request the withdrawal of blood shall not affect the 408 admissibility of a test of blood withdrawn for medical purposes. 409 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law pertaining to the 410 confidentiality of hospital records or other medical records, if 411 a health care provider, who is providing medical care in a health care facility to a person injured in a motor vehicle 412 413 crash, becomes aware, as a result of any blood test performed in 414 the course of that medical treatment, that the person's bloodalcohol level meets or exceeds the blood-alcohol level specified 415 in s. 316.193(1)(b), the health care provider may notify any law 416 417 enforcement officer or law enforcement agency. Any such notice 418 must be given within a reasonable time after the health care 419 provider receives the test result. Any such notice shall be used only for the purpose of providing the law enforcement officer 420 421 with reasonable cause to request the withdrawal of a blood 422 sample pursuant to this section. 423 2. The notice shall consist only of the name of the person

423 2. The notice shall consist only of the name of the person 424 being treated, the name of the person who drew the blood, the 425 blood-alcohol level indicated by the test, and the date and time 426 of the administration of the test.

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

Page 15 of 18

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Statutes, is amended to read:

29-01058A-25 20251606 436 4. A civil, criminal, or administrative action may not be 437 brought against any person or health care provider participating 438 in good faith in the provision of notice or failure to provide 439 notice as provided in this section. Any person or health care 440 provider participating in the provision of notice or failure to provide notice as provided in this section shall be immune from 441 442 any civil or criminal liability and from any professional 443 disciplinary action with respect to the provision of notice or failure to provide notice under this section. Any such 444 445 participant has the same immunity with respect to participating 446 in any judicial proceedings resulting from the notice or failure 447 to provide notice. 448 Section 9. Subsection (13) of section 395.4025, Florida 449 Statutes, is amended to read: 450 395.4025 Trauma centers; selection; quality assurance; 451 records.-452 (13) Patient care, transport, or treatment records or 453 reports, or patient care quality assurance proceedings, records, 454 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. 456 395.402, s. 395.403, s. 395.404, s. 395.4045, s. 395.405, s. 457 395.50, or s. 395.51 must be held confidential by the department 458 or its agent and are exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1). 459 Patient care quality assurance proceedings, records, or reports 460 obtained or made pursuant to these sections are not subject to 461 discovery or introduction into evidence in any civil or 462 administrative action. Section 10. Subsection (1) of section 400.0234, Florida 463

Page 16 of 18

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29-01058A-25 20251606 400.0234 Availability of facility records for investigation 465 466 of resident's rights violations and defenses; penalty.-467 (1) Failure to provide complete copies of a resident's 468 records, including, but not limited to, all medical records and 469 the resident's chart, within the control or possession of the 470 facility in accordance with s. 408.833 s. 400.145 shall 471 constitute evidence of failure of that party to comply with good 472 faith discovery requirements and shall waive the good faith certificate and presuit notice requirements under this part by 473 474 the requesting party. 475 Section 11. Subsection (1) of section 429.294, Florida 476 Statutes, is amended to read: 477 429.294 Availability of facility records for investigation 478 of resident's rights violations and defenses; penalty.-479 (1) Failure to provide complete copies of a resident's 480 records, including, but not limited to, all medical records and 481 the resident's chart, within the control or possession of the facility in accordance with s. 408.833 s. 400.145, shall 482 483 constitute evidence of failure of that party to comply with good 484 faith discovery requirements and shall waive the good faith 485 certificate and presuit notice requirements under this part by 486 the requesting party. 487 Section 12. Subsection (4) of section 440.185, Florida 488 Statutes, is amended to read: 440.185 Notice of injury or death; reports; penalties for 489 490 violations.-491 (4) Additional reports with respect to such injury and of the condition of such employee, including copies of medical 492

Page 17 of 18

reports, funeral expenses, and wage statements, shall be filed

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i	29-01058A-25 20251606
494	by the employer or carrier to the department at such times and
495	in such manner as the department may prescribe by rule. In
496	carrying out its responsibilities under this chapter, the
497	department or agency may by rule provide for the obtaining of
498	any medical records relating to medical treatment provided
499	pursuant to this chapter, notwithstanding the provisions of ss.
500	90.503 and <u>395.3025(2)</u> 395.3025(4) .
501	Section 13. Subsection (3) of section 456.47, Florida
502	Statutes, is amended to read:
503	456.47 Use of telehealth to provide services
504	(3) RECORDS.—A telehealth provider shall document in the
505	patient's medical record the health care services rendered using
506	telehealth according to the same standard as used for in-person
507	services. Medical records, including video, audio, electronic,
508	or other records generated as a result of providing such
509	services, are confidential pursuant to <u>ss. 395.3025(2) and</u>
510	<u>456.057</u> ss. 395.3025(4) and 456.057.
511	Section 14. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

Page 18 of 18