

HB 1579 -- HEALTH INFORMATION ORGANIZATIONS

SPONSOR: Jones

The bill requires all approved health information organizations to exchange standards-based clinical summaries for patients and all clinical and claims data from any agency within the state with all other approved health information organizations within the state. Failure to exchange such information must result in the suspension or revocation of approval status by the Missouri Health Information Exchange Commission and the immediate termination of any contracts, grants, and any other forms of state funding. The bill prohibits the state from conveying state designated entity status to any health information organization and requires the state to recognize all approved health information organizations as being equally eligible for any financial support or other assistance from the state.

Only approved health information organizations must be qualified to respond to contracting procurement opportunities and must be awarded contracts, provided that, the state must not award any contract to any health information organization as a single feasible source vendor. Beginning August 28, 2016, all existing single feasible source vendor contracts awarded to health information organizations operating within the state must receive no further appropriations and the state must not restrict the availability of or access to any state agency sponsored data sets to any approved health information organization. A health care provider or nonapproved health information organization is permitted to disclose protected health information to any state agency for any public health purpose that is required by law without authorization from the Missouri Health Information Exchange Commission.

The bill creates a Missouri Health Information Exchange Commission to be composed of seven members, as specified in the bill. The Commission members must annually elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson and must serve terms of office as specified in the bill. Members of the Commission must serve without compensation. The Commission is authorized to:

- (1) Govern how a health information organization may obtain approval status;
- (2) Develop a process for the investigation of reported complaints and concerns regarding approved health information organizations; and
- (3) Develop a process by which approved health information

organizations are reapproved, as specified in the bill.