

WEST VIRGINIA CODE: §16-5A-2a

§16-5A-2a. Cancer and tumor registry.

(a) To the extent funds are available, the director of the division of health shall establish a cancer and tumor registry for the purpose of collecting information concerning the incidence of cancer and nonmalignant intracranial and central nervous system tumors. The information collected by the registry shall be analyzed to prepare reports and perform studies as necessary when such data identifies hazards to public health. Pending appropriate funding, a statewide system shall be phased in and be fully operational by July 1, 2002, pursuant to the enactment of this section in 2001.

(b) All reporting sources, including hospitals, physicians, laboratories, clinics or other similar units diagnosing or providing treatment for cancer and nonmalignant intracranial and central nervous system tumors, shall provide a report of each cancer or tumor case to the cancer and tumor registry in a format specified by the director. The reporting sources shall grant the director or an authorized representative of the registry access to all records which would identify cases of cancer or nonmalignant intracranial and central nervous system tumors or would establish characteristics of cancer or nonmalignant intracranial or central nervous system tumors.

(c) All information reported pursuant to this section is confidential and shall be used for the purpose of determining the sources of malignant neoplasms and nonmalignant intracranial and central nervous system tumors and evaluating measures designed to eliminate, alleviate or ameliorate their effect. A report provided to the cancer and tumor registry disclosing the identity of an individual who was reported as having cancer or tumors shall only be released to reporting sources and persons demonstrating a need which is essential to health related research, except that the release shall be conditioned upon the reporting source and personal identities remaining confidential. No liability of any kind or character for damages or other relief shall arise or be enforced against any reporting source by reason of having provided the information or material to the cancer and tumor registry.

(d) The director of the division of health shall appoint an advisory committee on cancer and tumors with membership consisting of representatives of appropriate agencies, including the West Virginia hospital association; the American cancer society, West Virginia division; the American lung association of West Virginia; the West Virginia medical association; the association of osteopathic medicine; the West Virginia nurses association; the Mary Babb Randolph cancer center; and, at the discretion of the director, any other individuals directly involved. The advisory committee shall provide technical guidance regarding the operation of the cancer registry and shall provide such advice and assistance as needed to carry out effective cancer prevention and control activities. The members of the advisory committee shall serve four-year terms. Vacancies shall be filled in a like manner for the unexpired term.

(e) The director shall promulgate rules related to: (1) The content and design of all forms

and reports required by this section; (2) the procedures for disclosure of information gathered by the cancer and tumor registry by monitoring and evaluating health data and from completed risk assessments; and (3) any other matter necessary to the administration of this section.