

# WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

## 2018 REGULAR SESSION

**Enrolled**

**Committee Substitute**

**for**

**Senate Bill 543**

SENATORS TRUMP AND CLINE, *original sponsors*

[Passed March 7, 2018; if effect 90 days from passage]

OFFICE WEST VIRGINIA  
SECRETARY OF STATE

2018 MAR 27 A 10:07

FILED

SB543

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[Passed March 7, 2018; if effect 90 days from passage]

1 AN ACT to amend and reenact §27-3-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating  
2 generally to confidentiality of certain medical records; eliminating disclosure exception for  
3 treatment or internal review purposes; eliminating 30-day requirement; eliminating  
4 requirement that provider make good faith effort to obtain consent from the patient or legal  
5 representative; eliminating requirement that the minimum information necessary is  
6 released for a specifically stated purpose; eliminating requirement that prompt notice of  
7 the disclosure, the recipient of the information, and the purpose of the disclosure is given  
8 to the patient or legal representative; and adopting provisions of federal law which pertain  
9 to disclosure of protected health information.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

**ARTICLE 3. CONFIDENTIALITY.**

**§27-3-1. Definition of confidential information; disclosure.**

1 (a) Communications and information obtained in the course of treatment or evaluation of  
2 any client or patient are confidential information. Such confidential information includes the fact  
3 that a person is or has been a client or patient, information transmitted by a patient or client or  
4 family thereof for purposes relating to diagnosis or treatment, information transmitted by persons  
5 participating in the accomplishment of the objectives of diagnosis or treatment, all diagnoses or  
6 opinions formed regarding a client's or patient's physical, mental, or emotional condition, any  
7 advice, instructions, or prescriptions issued in the course of diagnosis or treatment, and any  
8 record or characterization of the matters hereinbefore described. It does not include information  
9 which does not identify a client or patient, information from which a person acquainted with a  
10 client or patient would not recognize such client or patient, and de-identified information from  
11 which there is no possible means to identify a client or patient.

12 (b) Confidential information shall not be disclosed, except:

13 (1) In a proceeding under §27-5-4 of this code to disclose the results of an involuntary  
14 examination made pursuant to §27-5-2, §27-5-3, or §27-5-4 of this code;

15           (2) In a proceeding under §27-6A-1 *et seq.* of this code to disclose the results of an  
16 involuntary examination made pursuant thereto;

17           (3) Pursuant to an order of any court based upon a finding that the information is  
18 sufficiently relevant to a proceeding before the court to outweigh the importance of maintaining  
19 the confidentiality established by this section;

20           (4) To provide notice to the federal National Instant Criminal Background Check System,  
21 established pursuant to section 103(d) of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act,  
22 18 U.S.C. § 922, in accordance with §61-7A-1 *et seq.* of this code;

23           (5) To protect against a clear and substantial danger of imminent injury by a patient or  
24 client to himself, herself, or another;

25           (6) Pursuant to and as provided for under the federal privacy rule of the Health Insurance  
26 Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 in 45 CFR §164, as amended under the Health  
27 Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act of the American and the Omnibus  
28 Final Rule, 78 FR 5566; or

29           (7) In a proceeding held under §44A-3-17 of this code or as required by §44A-3-18 of this  
30 code.

The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

*Ed Branch*  
Member Chairman, Senate Committee

*Ray Hulse*  
Chairman, House Committee

Originated in the Senate.

In effect 90 days from passage.

2018 MAR 27 A 10: 07  
OFFICE WEST VIRGINIA  
SECRETARY OF STATE

FILED

*Joe Lavin*  
Clerk of the Senate

*Steph J. Harris*  
Clerk of the House of Delegates

*W. G. Canfield*  
President of the Senate

*Jim Perrotti*  
Speaker of the House of Delegates

The within *is approved* this the *27th*  
Day of *March* 2018.

*Jim Justice*  
Governor

PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNOR

MAR 19 2018

Time 1:45 pm