

## **H.98 as Passed Senate**

An act relating to reportable disease registries and data

### **Section 1. Cancer Registry**

- Requires reports of cancer cases to the Commissioner of Health within 180 days (versus 120 days) of admission to a health care facility or diagnosis
- Enables the Commissioner to provide confidential information to the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program in order to collaborate in a national cancer registry or in cancer control and prevention research studies

### **Section 2. Communicable Disease Reports**

- Removes the requirement that VDH adopt rules on HIV/AIDS reporting regarding confidentiality and backing up encrypted, individually identifying information
- Reorganizes provision that public health records related to HIV/AIDS and developed or acquired by a state/local public health agency be confidential and only disclosed with written authorization, except with regard to disclosures to federal government; State departments/programs; or other states' infectious disease surveillance programs
- Removes requirement that:
  - disclosure be limited to only information necessary to achieve the purpose for which it was made
- Removes requirement prohibiting VDH from collecting/processing/storing identifying information concerning HIV/AIDS on networked computers, laptops, etc.
- Removes language pertaining to a one-time security audit, and adds new language requiring VDH to conduct an annual evaluation of system security
- Removes language pertaining to a one-time public campaign and adds new language requiring VDH to collaborate with community-based organizations to educate the public & providers on the benefits of HIV/AIDS testing

### **Sec. 3. (Immunization) Exemptions**

- Strikes reference to the philosophical exemption

### **Sec. 4. Access to and Reporting of Immunization Records**

- Strikes reference to the philosophical exemption

### **Sec. 5. Immunization Registry**

- Enables registry information about a minor child to be provided, upon request, to a school administrator where a school nurse is not on staff
  - Creates a new definition of “administrator” that refers to both public and independent schools
- Requires the Department of Health to keep information on the immunization registry confidential and privileged, except that:
  - VDH may exchange confidential registry information with other states' immunization registries for the purpose of obtaining comprehensive immunization records

- VDH may provide confidential registry information to health care provider networks serving VT patients and (with approval of the Commissioner) to researchers presenting evidence of approval from and institutional review board
- Where one of the above exceptions is made, the Commissioner must obtain from state registries, health care provider networks, and researchers, a written agreement to keep identifying information confidential and privileged
- VDH is allowed to share registry information for public health purposes in summary or statistical form

**Sec. 6. Effective Date**

- Bill takes effect July 1, 2015