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H.293

An act relating to health equity data reporting and registry disclosure requirements

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

* * * Health Equity Data Reporting * * *

Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 253 is amended to read:

§ 253. DATA RESPONSIVE TO HEALTH EQUITY INQUIRIES

* * *

(b)(1) The Department of Health shall systematically analyze such health equity data using the smallest appropriate units of analysis feasible to detect racial and ethnic disparities, as well as disparities along the lines of primary language, sex, disability status, sexual orientation, gender identity, and socioeconomic status, and report the results of such analysis on the Department’s website periodically, but not less than biannually. The Department’s analysis shall be used to measure over time the impact of actions taken to reduce health disparities in Vermont. The data informing the Department’s analysis shall be made available to the public in accordance with State and federal law.

(2) ~~Annually~~ Every three years beginning in 2028, on or before January 15, the Department shall submit a report containing the results of the analysis conducted pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection to the Senate

1 Committee on Health and Welfare and to the House Committees on Health
2 Care and on Human Services.

3 * * * Cancer Registry Disclosure Requirements * * *

4 Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 155 is amended to read:

5 § 155. DISCLOSURE

6 * * *

7 (b) The Commissioner may furnish confidential information to the National
8 Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, other states' cancer
9 registries, federal cancer control agencies, or health researchers in order to
10 collaborate in a national cancer registry or to collaborate in cancer control and
11 prevention research studies. However, before releasing confidential
12 information, the Commissioner shall first obtain from such state registries,
13 agencies, or researchers ~~an agreement in writing to keep~~ written assurances
14 acceptable to the Commissioner that the identifying information shall be kept
15 confidential and privileged as required by law. In the case of researchers, the
16 Commissioner shall also first obtain written evidence of the approval of ~~their~~
17 ~~academic committee for the protection of human subjects established in~~
18 ~~accordance with 45 C.F.R. part 46~~ an institutional review board or privacy
19 board in accordance with 45 C.F.R. § 164.512(i)(1)(i)(A) and (B).

20 * * * Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Registry Disclosure Requirements * * *

21 Sec. 3. 18 V.S.A. § 174 is amended to read:

1 § 174. CONFIDENTIALITY

2 (a)(1) All identifying information regarding an individual patient or health
3 care provider is exempt from public inspection and copying under the Public
4 Records Act and shall be kept confidential.

5 (2) Notwithstanding subdivision (1) of this subsection, the
6 Commissioner may enter into data sharing and protection agreements with
7 researchers or state, regional, or national amyotrophic lateral sclerosis
8 registries for bidirectional data exchange, provided access under such
9 agreements is consistent with the privacy, security, and disclosure protections
10 in this chapter. In the case of researchers, the Commissioner shall also first
11 obtain written evidence of the approval of ~~their academic committee for the~~
12 ~~protection of human subjects established in accordance with 45 C.F.R. Part 46~~
13 an institutional review board or privacy board in accordance with 45 C.F.R.
14 § 164.512(i)(1)(i)(A) and (B). The Commissioner shall disclose the minimum
15 information necessary to accomplish a specified research purpose.

16 * * *

17 * * * Effective Date * * *

18 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

19 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.