

LFC Requester:

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AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2026 REGULAR SESSION

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO
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(Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF)

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Date Prepared: February 3, 2026 *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: HB 279 Original Correction
 Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: Christine Chandler **Agency Name and Code** 361 – Department of Information Technology
Short Healthcare Info Privacy Protections **Number:** Technology
Person Writing David Pardo
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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

| Appropriation | | Recurring or Nonrecurring | Fund Affected |
|---------------|------|------------------------------|------------------|
| FY26 | FY27 | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

| Estimated Revenue | | | Recurring or Nonrecurring | Fund Affected |
|-------------------|------|------|------------------------------|------------------|
| FY26 | FY27 | FY28 | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

(Parenthesis () indicate revenue decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

| | FY26 | FY27 | FY28 | 3 Year Total Cost | Recurring or Nonrecurring | Fund Affected |
|--------------|------|------|------|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| Total | | | | | | |

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:
 Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: House Bill 279 strengthens privacy protections for electronic medical records and related health care information. The legislation limits disclosure of certain health care data, restricts location tracking at reproductive health care and gender-affirming health care facilities, and amends licensing requirements for hospitals. It also enhances privacy protections for providers prescribing drugs for reproductive health care and allows these providers to participate in the Confidential Substitute Address Program. The bill introduces civil penalties for violations and creates enforcement mechanisms through the Attorney General or district attorneys.

Key provisions include prohibiting geofencing of health care facilities for data collection or targeted advertising, requiring segregation of sensitive health care information within electronic medical record systems, and mandating written authorization for access to reproductive and gender-affirming health care records. Additionally, HB 279 establishes heightened protections against out-of-state subpoenas seeking health care information and provides remedies for individuals whose rights under the Act are violated.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HB279 requires vendors operating electronic medical record systems or health information exchanges to implement segregation capabilities and access control mechanisms by July 1, 2028. State agencies may have to make minor adjustments to ensure compliance with this legislation, but fiscal impacts should be minimal.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HB 279 addresses growing concerns about the misuse of health care data, particularly in the context of reproductive and gender-affirming health care. By prohibiting geofencing and restricting disclosure of sensitive information, the bill seeks to safeguard patient privacy and prevent harassment or discrimination.

Many electronic health record vendors and health information exchanges have developed, or are already developing, the capabilities described in HB 279 due to other state's similar data segmentation and privacy laws. While HB 279 introduces some new operational privacy mechanisms for health care providers in their workflow and additional access management for patients to manage sensitive health records, HB279 recognizes the complexity of integration into clinical practice by providing a compliance date of July 1, 2028 for the vendors and presumes integration of those mechanisms for providers after the vendors come into compliance.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

Successful implementation of HB 279 will enhance public trust in health care systems and strengthen privacy protections for vulnerable populations.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The Secretary of State will need to expand the Confidential Substitute Address Program to accommodate health care providers.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

HB 279 interacts with existing statutes governing electronic medical records and privacy, including the Electronic Medical Records Act and the Reproductive and Gender-Affirming Health Care Protection Act.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

ALTERNATIVES

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

AMENDMENTS