

YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

Bill Number _____

Legislative Action:

Introduced By: Michelle Pascual
Authored By: Michelle Pascual

House Committee: _____

House: _____

Senate Committee: _____

Senate: _____

Governor: _____

Delegation: Bozeman High School

Referred to Committee: _____

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO MANDATE HOSPITALS PROVIDE
2 INTERNET ACCESS TO ALL LISCENED AND PRATICING HEALTH CARE
3 PROFFESIONALS."

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5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE MONTANA YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE:

6 **Section 1.** Currently, in some hospitals across Montana, some practicing physicians are
7 required to pay for their internet service because they are not part of the collection of physicians
8 that are associated with the hospital's health group. This puts a burden on these physicians
9 because often high speed internet access can cost on average fifty dollars or more a month and
10 then to offset these costs physicians have to increase the prices they charge..

11 **Section 2.** Definition: "Licensed health care professional means a licensed physician,
12 physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, or registered nurse who is practicing
13 within the scope of the license issued by the department of labor and industry."
14 Internet access means a hardwire connection available in all offices and, through computer
15 terminals in long term patient care areas as needed, that complies with HIPPA requirements.
16 The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act protects the privacy of patients' medical
17 information and requires hard wire internet connections due to the security concerns of wireless
18 internet.

19 **Section 3.** All health care facilities in populations of 18,000 are required to maintain
20 access to internet, within the facility including office buildings, for all health care professionals
21 that have privileges. This allows health care professionals to have access to the resources on the
22 web.

23 **Section 4.** This bill will be enforced by the Department of Health and Human Services. Any
24 funding required to enforce this bill will come from an additional five cent tax increase on
25 cigarettes and possibly from the collected fines.

26 **Section 5.** Enforcement shall not begin until sixth-months following the passing of the
27 bill. Any noncompliant hospitals will pay \$50,000 each month they fail to meet the
28 requirements. The Red Cross will receive half the amount of each fine collected. Hospitals may
29 appeal any time after the bill is passed and may be exempt from the fine if they are filing for
30 bankruptcy, are located in an area where only dial-up service is available, or progress is shown
31 and an extra month, at the most two months, is needed to complete the installation.

32 **Section 6.** This bill shall go into effect upon passage.

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