

Senate Business and Labor Committee

Prepared by the Utah Association of Special Districts

2/27/2026

Bill: 5th substitute HB 259 – Parental Access to Children’s Medical Records Amendments

Sponsor: Representative M. Petersen

Floor Sponsor: Senator Brammer

UASD Position: Track

This Bill amends provisions related to parent access to a minor's medical record.

Discussion: The sponsor, speaking to the 5th substitute, was accompanied by Robin Wilson of the University of Illinois College of Law to present the Bill. The sponsor explained that the Bill arose from a constituent concern regarding parental access to a child’s medical records once the child reaches age 13. The sponsor stated that the Bill would require medical service providers to grant parents access to their minor child’s medical records.

Senator Musselman requested clarification regarding the fines included in the Bill. The sponsor explained that the fines are intended to ensure compliance by medical providers. Senator Vickers questioned the change in the implementation date from September 2026 to May 2027. The sponsor stated that the adjustment was made to allow adequate time for medical information providers to comply with the change to the law.

Senator Weiler raised concerns regarding the potential impact of parental access on a child’s willingness to share information with a medical provider. He also questioned whether the state has laws providing for confidential STD treatment for minors. Ms. Wilson addressed constitutional considerations, stating that parents have a fundamental right to care for and make decisions on behalf of their children. She further explained that while services such as smoking cessation and STD treatment are important, parents would retain the right to access those records. Ms. Wilson also stated that the Bill would not conflict with the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (“HIPAA”).

Dave Gessel, Executive Vice President of the Utah Hospital Association, spoke in opposition to the proposed implementation date, explaining that the medical record providers would need more time and expressed concerns regarding associated fees. The Executive Director of Utah Eagle Forum spoke in support of the Bill. The Associate Chief Legal Officer of Intermountain Health also spoke in support.

Senator Musselman again questioned the implementation timeline. The Associate Chief Legal Officer requested an implementation date of December 31, 2027. Senator Weiler discussed potential efficiency concerns and the feasibility of password-sharing mechanisms to facilitate parental access.

The Committee adopted the 5th substitute. Senator Ipson moved to amend lines 69 and 72 to change the implementation date to December 31, 2027. The sponsor stated that the amendment was not necessary, noting that medical providers had approved an 18-month implementation

timeline. Senator Musselman questioned the notification of medical record providers of the change. The Committee determined that a later implementation date would better accommodate large medical record providers. Senator Weiler noted that while the policy change could take effect earlier, implementation could reasonably be delayed. The Committee adopted the voice amendment. Senator Ipson subsequently moved to amend lines 68 and 70 to reduce the daily fine from \$10,000 per day to \$1,000 per day. The Committee adopted the voice amendment.

Yeas: 6

Nays: 2

N/V: 0

Outcome: 5th substitute HB 259, as amended, passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.
