

**As Reported by the House Community and Family Advancement  
Committee**

**132nd General Assembly**

**Regular Session  
2017-2018**

**Sub. H. B. No. 340**

**Representative Young**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Becker, Dean, Hambley, Hill, Seitz, Brenner**

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**A BILL**

To amend sections 5101.26, 5101.27, 5160.45, and 1  
5160.46 and to enact section 5167.15 of the 2  
Revised Code regarding access to information 3  
concerning public and medical assistance 4  
recipients. 5

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That sections 5101.26, 5101.27, 5160.45, and 6  
5160.46 be amended and section 5167.15 of the Revised Code be 7  
enacted to read as follows: 8

**Sec. 5101.26.** As used in this section and in sections 9  
5101.27 to 5101.30 of the Revised Code: 10

(A) "County agency" means a county department of job and 11  
family services, child support enforcement agency, or a public 12  
children services agency. 13

(B) "Fugitive felon" means an individual who is fleeing to 14  
avoid prosecution, or custody or confinement after conviction, 15  
under the laws of the place from which the individual is 16  
fleeing, for a crime or an attempt to commit a crime that is a 17

felony under the laws of the place from which the individual is 18  
fleeing or, in the case of New Jersey, a high misdemeanor, 19  
regardless of whether the individual has departed from the 20  
individual's usual place of residence. 21

(C) "Information" means records as defined in section 22  
149.011 of the Revised Code, any other documents in any format, 23  
and data derived from records and documents that are generated, 24  
acquired, or maintained by the department of job and family 25  
services, a county agency, or an entity performing duties on 26  
behalf of the department or a county agency. 27

(D) "Law enforcement agency" means the state highway 28  
patrol, an agency that employs peace officers as defined in 29  
section 109.71 of the Revised Code, the adult parole authority, 30  
a county department of probation, a prosecuting attorney, the 31  
attorney general, similar agencies of other states, federal law 32  
enforcement agencies, and postal inspectors. "Law enforcement 33  
agency" includes the peace officers and other law enforcement 34  
officers employed by the agency. 35

(E) "Public assistance" means financial assistance or 36  
social services that are provided under a program administered 37  
by the department of job and family services or a county agency 38  
pursuant to Chapter 329., 5101., 5104., 5107., or 5108. of the 39  
Revised Code or an executive order issued under section 107.17 40  
of the Revised Code. "Public assistance" does not mean medical 41  
assistance provided under a medical assistance program, as 42  
defined in section 5160.01 of the Revised Code. 43

(F) "Public assistance recipient" means an applicant for 44  
or recipient or former recipient of public assistance. 45

**Sec. 5101.27.** (A) Except as permitted by this section, 46

section 5101.273, 5101.28, or 5101.29 of the Revised Code, or 47  
rules adopted under section 5101.30 of the Revised Code, or when 48  
required by federal law, no person or government entity shall 49  
knowingly solicit, disclose, receive, use, or knowingly permit 50  
the use of, or participate in the use of any information 51  
regarding a public assistance recipient for any purpose not 52  
directly connected with the administration of a public 53  
assistance program. 54

(B) To the extent permitted by federal law, the department 55  
of job and family services and county agencies shall do all of 56  
the following: 57

(1) Release information regarding a public assistance 58  
recipient, for purposes directly connected to the administration 59  
of the program providing assistance to the recipient, to a 60  
government entity responsible for administering that public 61  
assistance program; 62

(2) Provide access to information regarding a public 63  
assistance recipient to a state, federal, or federally assisted 64  
program that provides cash or in-kind assistance or services 65  
directly to individuals based on need or for the purpose of 66  
protecting children to a government entity responsible for 67  
administering a children's protective services program; 68

(3) Provide access to information included in a child 69  
support order to a state, federal, or federally assisted program 70  
that provides cash or in-kind assistance or services directly to 71  
individuals based on need or for the purpose of protecting 72  
children to a government entity responsible for administering a 73  
children's protective services program; 74

(4) Provide information regarding a public assistance 75

recipient to a law enforcement agency for the purpose of any 76  
investigation, prosecution, or criminal or civil proceeding 77  
relating to the administration of that public assistance 78  
program; 79

~~(3) Provide, for~~ (5) For purposes directly connected to 80  
the administration of a program that assists needy individuals 81  
with the costs of public utility services, provide information 82  
regarding a recipient of financial assistance provided under a 83  
program administered by the department or a county agency 84  
pursuant to Chapter 5107. or 5108. of the Revised Code to an 85  
entity administering the public utility services program; 86

(6) For purposes directly connected to the administration 87  
of a medical assistance program, as defined in section 5160.01 88  
of the Revised Code, provide access to information regarding a 89  
public assistance recipient or included in a child support order 90  
to a government entity administering the medical assistance 91  
program. 92

(C) To the extent permitted by federal law and section 93  
1347.08 of the Revised Code, the department and county agencies 94  
shall provide access to information regarding a public 95  
assistance recipient to all of the following: 96

(1) The recipient; 97

(2) The authorized representative; 98

(3) The legal guardian of the recipient; 99

(4) The attorney of the recipient, if the attorney has 100  
written authorization that complies with section 5101.272 of the 101  
Revised Code from the recipient. 102

(D) To the extent permitted by federal law ~~and subject to~~ 103

~~division (E) of this section, the department and county agencies~~ 104  
~~may do both of the following:~~ 105

~~(1) Release release information about a public assistance~~ 106  
~~recipient if the recipient gives voluntary, written~~ 107  
~~authorization that complies with section 5101.272 of the Revised~~ 108  
~~Code;~~ 109

~~(2) Release information regarding a public assistance~~ 110  
~~recipient to a state, federal, or federally assisted program~~ 111  
~~that provides cash or in kind assistance or services directly to~~ 112  
~~individuals based on need or for the purpose of protecting~~ 113  
~~children to a government entity responsible for administering a~~ 114  
~~children's protective services program.~~ 115

~~(E) Except when the release is required by division (B),~~ 116  
~~or (C), or (D) (2) of this section, the department or county~~ 117  
~~agency shall release the information only in accordance with the~~ 118  
~~authorization. The department or county agency shall provide, at~~ 119  
~~no cost, a copy of each written authorization to the individual~~ 120  
~~who signed it.~~ 121

(E) If the department or county agency determines that it 122  
cannot comply with division (B) (2), (3), or (6) of this section, 123  
the department shall submit a request to the attorney general 124  
for a formal opinion on the question of whether it can comply. 125  
Not later than ten days after receiving the opinion, the 126  
department shall submit a copy of it to the general assembly in 127  
accordance with section 101.68 of the Revised Code. 128

~~(F) The department of job and family services may adopt~~ 129  
~~rules defining "authorized representative" for purposes of~~ 130  
~~division (C) (2) of this section.~~ 131

**Sec. 5160.45.** (A) As used in sections 5160.45 to 5160.481 132

of the Revised Code, "information" means all of the following:	133
(1) Records, as defined in section 149.011 of the Revised Code;	134
(2) Any other documents in any format;	136
(3) Data derived from records and documents that are generated, acquired, or maintained by the department of medicaid, a county department of job and family services, or an entity performing duties on behalf of the department or a county department.	137
(B) Except as permitted by this section, section 5160.47, or rules authorized by section 5160.48 or 5160.481 of the Revised Code, or when required by federal law, no person or government entity shall <u>knowingly</u> use or disclose information regarding a medical assistance recipient for any purpose not directly connected with the administration of a medical assistance program.	138
(C) Both of the following shall be considered to be purposes directly connected with the administration of a medical assistance program:	139
(1) Treatment, payment, or other operations or activities authorized by 42 C.F.R. Chapter IV;	140
(2) Any administrative function or duty the department of medicaid performs alone or jointly with a federal government entity, another state government entity, or a local government entity implementing a provision of federal law.	141
(D) <u>To the extent permitted by federal law, the department of medicaid or a county department of job and family services shall do all of the following:</u>	142
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(1) Provide information regarding a medical assistance recipient, for purposes directly connected to the administration of the program providing assistance to the recipient, to a government entity responsible for administering that medical assistance program; 161  
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(2) Provide access to information regarding a medical assistance recipient to a state, federal, or federally assisted program that provides cash or in-kind assistance or services directly to individuals based on need or for the purpose of protecting children to a government entity responsible for administering a children's protective services program; 166  
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(3) For purposes directly connected to the administration of a public assistance program, as defined in section 5101.26 of the Revised Code, provide access to information regarding a medical assistance recipient to a government entity administering the public assistance program. 172  
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(E) The department of medicaid or a county department of job and family services may disclose information regarding a medical assistance recipient to any of the following: 177  
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(1) The recipient or the recipient's authorized representative; 180  
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(2) The recipient's legal guardian in accordance with division (C) of section 2111.13 of the Revised Code; 182  
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(3) The attorney of the recipient, if the department or county department has obtained authorization from the recipient or the recipient's authorized representative or legal guardian that meets all requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, 42 U.S.C. 1320d et seq., 184  
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health and human services to implement the act, section 5160.46 190  
of the Revised Code, and any rules authorized by section 5160.48 191  
of the Revised Code; 192

(4) A health information or health records management 193  
entity that has executed with the department a business 194  
associate agreement required by 45 C.F.R 164.502(e) (2) and has 195  
been authorized by the recipient or the recipient's authorized 196  
representative or legal guardian to receive the recipient's 197  
electronic health records in accordance with rules authorized by 198  
section 5160.48 of the Revised Code; 199

(5) A court if pursuant to a written order of the court. 200

~~(E)~~ (F) The department of medicaid may receive from county 201  
departments of job and family services information regarding any 202  
medical assistance recipient for purposes of training and 203  
verifying the accuracy of eligibility determinations for a 204  
medical assistance program. The department may assemble 205  
information received under this division into a report if the 206  
report is in a form specified by the department. Information 207  
received and assembled into a report under this division shall 208  
remain confidential and not be subject to disclosure pursuant to 209  
section 149.43 or 1347.08 of the Revised Code. 210

~~(F)~~ (G) The department of medicaid shall notify courts in 211  
this state regarding its authority, under division ~~(D)~~ (E) (5) of 212  
this section, to disclose information regarding a medical 213  
assistance recipient pursuant to a written court order. 214

(H) If the department of medicaid or a county department 215  
of job and family services determines it cannot comply with 216  
division (D) (2) or (3) of this section, the department of 217  
medicaid shall submit a request to the attorney general for a 218



formal opinion on the question of whether it can comply. Not 219  
later than ten days after receiving the opinion, the department 220  
of medicaid shall submit a copy of it to the general assembly in 221  
accordance with section 101.68 of the Revised Code. 222

**Sec. 5160.46.** (A) For the purposes of section 5160.45 of 223  
the Revised Code, an authorization shall be made on a form that 224  
uses language understandable to the average person and contains 225  
all of the following: 226

(1) A description of the information to be used or 227  
disclosed that identifies the information in a specific and 228  
meaningful fashion; 229

(2) The name or other specific identification of the 230  
person or class of persons authorized to make the requested use 231  
or disclosure; 232

(3) The name or other specific identification of the 233  
person or government entity to which the information may be 234  
released; 235

(4) A description of each purpose of the requested use or 236  
disclosure of the information; 237

(5) The date on which the authorization expires or an 238  
event related either to the individual who is the subject of the 239  
request or to the purposes of the requested use or disclosure, 240  
the occurrence of which will cause the authorization to expire; 241

(6) A statement that the information used or disclosed 242  
pursuant to the authorization may be disclosed by the recipient 243  
of the information and may no longer be protected from 244  
disclosure; 245

(7) The signature of the individual or the individual's 246

authorized representative and the date on which the	247
authorization was signed;	248
(8) If signed by an authorized representative, a	249
description of the representative's authority to act for the	250
individual;	251
(9) A statement of the individual or authorized	252
representative's right to prospectively revoke the written	253
authorization in writing, along with either of the following:	254
(a) A description of how the individual or authorized	255
representative may revoke the authorization;	256
(b) If the department of medicaid has established a	257
privacy notice that contains a description of how the individual	258
or authorized representative may revoke the authorization, a	259
reference to the privacy notice.	260
(10) A statement that treatment, payment, enrollment, or	261
eligibility for a medical assistance program cannot be	262
conditioned on signing the authorization unless the	263
authorization is necessary for determining eligibility for the	264
program.	265
(B) An authorization for the release of information	266
regarding a medical assistance recipient to the recipient's	267
attorney under division <del>(D)</del> <u>(E)</u> (3) of section 5160.45 of the	268
Revised Code may include a provision specifically authorizing	269
the release of the recipient's electronic health records, if	270
any, in accordance with rules authorized by section 5160.48 or	271
5160.481 of the Revised Code.	272
(C) When an individual requests information pursuant to	273
section 5160.45 of the Revised Code regarding the individual's	274
enrollment in a medical assistance program and does not wish to	275

provide a statement of purpose, the statement "at request of the individual" is a sufficient description for purposes of division (A) (4) of this section.

**Sec. 5167.15.** The department of medicaid shall require a medicaid managed care organization to comply with sections 5160.45 and 5160.46 of the Revised Code as if the organization were the department.

**Section 2.** That existing sections 5101.26, 5101.27, 5160.45, and 5160.46 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed.

**Section 3.** Sections 5101.26, 5101.27, 5160.45, 5160.46, and 5167.15 of the Revised Code, as amended or enacted by this act, shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after the effective date of this act.