

HOUSE BILL NO. 253

INTRODUCED BY B. MERCER

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO DISCLOSE CERTAIN INFORMATION DURING A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Duties of department during public health emergency. (1) If the governor has declared a state of emergency pursuant to 10-3-303 that is considered a public health emergency, the department shall make, at minimum, a daily twice weekly disclosure of health information in accordance with the confidentiality requirements of 50-16-603 on the department's website and any other means considered necessary to communicate to the public the total number of individuals:

(a) hospitalized in the state due to conditions, diagnoses, or other impacts to an individual's health that have been identified by the governor as a basis for the public health emergency; and

(b) who have died as a result of conditions, diagnoses, or other impacts to an individual's health that have been identified by the governor as a basis for the public health emergency.

(2) ~~For~~ Except as provided in subsection (3), for each category identified in subsections (1)(a) and (1)(b), the department shall disclose:

(a) the number of individuals within the following age cohorts:

(i) 0 to ~~5~~ 4;

(ii) ~~6 to 15~~ 5 to 17;

(iii) ~~16 to 25~~ 18 to 34;

(iv) ~~26 to 35~~ 35 to 49;

(v) ~~36 to 45~~ 50 to 64; and

(vi) ~~46 to 55~~ 65 and older;

~~(vii) — 56 to 65;~~

~~(viii) — 66 to 75;~~

- 2025

Drafter: Milly Allen,

1 ~~(ix) — 76 to 85;~~
2 ~~(x) — 86 to 95; and~~
3 ~~(xi) — 96 and above;~~
4 (b) the gender of individuals;
5 (c) any period of hospitalization of the individuals related to the conditions, diagnoses, or other
6 impacts to an individual's health that have been identified by the governor as a basis for the public health
7 emergency;
8 (d) the date of death, if applicable;
9 (e) underlying conditions, if any, that may have contributed to the hospitalization or death of the
10 individuals; and
11 (f) if not disclosed pursuant to subsection (2)(e), for individuals who have died during the time
12 period for which the department is disclosing the information required in this section, personal characteristics or
13 conditions of the individuals that may be causally connected to mortality or morbidity known to be associated
14 with the public health emergency.
15 (3) If disclosure of the information required by subsection (2) would compromise privacy, the
16 department may alter how it reports the information, including age cohort groupings, or not disclose the
17 information.

- END -