

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2019 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 545

BY SENATOR AZINGER

[Introduced February 7, 2019; Referred
to the Committee on Health and Human Resources]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §16-3C-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating
2 to HIV testing; and eliminating outdated testing protocols.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

**ARTICLE 3C. AIDS-RELATED MEDICAL TESTING AND RECORDS
CONFIDENTIALITY ACT.**

**§16-3C-2. HIV-related testing; methods for obtaining consent; billing patient health care
providers.**

1 (a) HIV-related testing should be recommended by health care providers as part of a
2 routine screening for treatable conditions and as part of routine prenatal and perinatal care. A
3 physician, dentist, nurse practitioner, nurse midwife, physician assistant, or the commissioner
4 may also request targeted testing for any of the following:

5 (1) When there is cause to believe that the test could be positive. Persons who engage in
6 high-risk behavior should be encouraged to be screened for HIV at least annually;

7 (2) When there is cause to believe that the test could provide information important in the
8 care of the patient;

9 (3) When there is cause to believe that the results of HIV-testing of samples of blood or
10 body fluids from a source patient could provide information important in the care of medical or
11 emergency responders or other persons identified in rules proposed by the department for
12 approval by the Legislature in accordance with the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code:
13 *Provided*, That the source patient whose blood or body fluids is being tested pursuant to this
14 section must have come into contact with a medical or emergency responder or other person in
15 such a way that a significant exposure has occurred;

16 (4) When there is no record of any HIV-related or other sexually transmitted disease
17 testing during pregnancy and the woman presents for labor and delivery.

18 (b) All health care providers, the bureau, or a local health department that routinely bill
19 insurance companies or other third-party providers may bill for HIV-related testing and treatment.

20 (c) A patient consents to HIV-related testing when:

21 (1) The patient is informed either orally or in writing that:

22 (A) HIV-related testing will be performed as part of his or her routine care;

23 (B) HIV-related testing is voluntary; and

24 (C) He or she may decline HIV-related testing (opt-out); or

25 (2) The patient is informed that the patient's general consent for medical care includes
26 consent for HIV-related testing.

27 (d) A patient who opts-out of HIV-related testing must be informed that HIV-related testing
28 may be obtained anonymously at a local or county health department.

29 (e) Any person seeking an HIV-related test in a local or county health department or at
30 other HIV test setting provided by the commissioner who wishes to remain anonymous has the
31 right to do so and must be provided written informed consent ~~through the use of~~ using a coded
32 system with no linking of individual identity to the test request or results.

33 (f) County or local health departments that routinely bill insurance companies or other
34 third-party payers for service may bill for an HIV-related test if the person requesting the test does
35 not request anonymity. No person may be refused a test at a local health department due to a
36 lack of insurance or due to a request to remain anonymous.

37 (g) A person may not decline or opt-out of HIV-related testing and the provisions of
38 subsections (a) and (c) of this section do not apply when:

39 (1) A health care provider or health facility procures, processes, distributes or uses:

40 (A) A human body part, including tissue and blood or blood products, donated for:

41 (i) A purpose specified under the uniform anatomical gift act; or

42 (ii) Transplant recipients;

43 (B) Semen provided ~~for the purpose of~~ for artificial insemination and an HIV-related test is
44 necessary to ensure medical acceptability of a recipient or such gift or semen for the purposes
45 intended;

46 (2) A person is unable or unwilling to grant or withhold consent as the result of a
47 documented bona fide medical emergency, as determined by a treating physician taking into
48 account the nature and extent of the exposure to another person and the HIV-related test results
49 are necessary for medical diagnostic purposes to provide appropriate emergency care or
50 treatment to a medical or emergency responder, or any other person who has come into contact
51 with a source patient in such a way that a significant exposure necessitates HIV testing or to a
52 source patient who is unable to consent in accordance with rules proposed by the department for
53 approval by the Legislature in accordance with §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code: *Provided*, That
54 necessary treatment may not be withheld pending HIV test results: *Provided, however*, That all
55 sampling and HIV testing of samples of blood and body fluids, without the opportunity for the
56 source patient or patient's representative to opt-out of the testing, shall be through the use of a
57 pseudonym and in accordance with rules proposed by the department for approval by the
58 Legislature in accordance with §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code; or

59 (3) The performance of an HIV-related test ~~for the purpose of~~ for research if the testing is
60 performed in a manner by which the identity of the test subject is not known and may not be
61 retrieved by the researcher.

62 (h) Mandated testing:

63 (1) The performance of any HIV-related testing that is or becomes mandatory by court
64 order or other legal process described herein does not require consent of the subject but will
65 include counseling.

66 (2) The court having jurisdiction of the criminal prosecution shall order that an HIV-related
67 test be performed on any persons charged with any of the following crimes or offenses:

68 (i) Prostitution; or

69 (ii) Sexual abuse, sexual assault, incest, or sexual molestation.

70 (3) HIV-related tests performed on persons charged with prostitution, sexual abuse, sexual
71 assault, incest, or sexual molestation shall be confidentially administered by a designee of the
72 bureau or the local or county health department having proper jurisdiction. The commissioner may
73 designate health care providers in regional jail facilities to administer HIV-related tests on such
74 persons if he or she determines it necessary and expedient.

75 (4) Costs associated with tests performed on persons charged with prostitution, sexual
76 abuse, sexual assault, incest, or sexual molestation may be charged to the defendant or juvenile
77 respondent unless a court determines that the person charged with prostitution, sexual abuse,
78 sexual assault, incest, or sexual molestation is pecuniary unable to pay.

79 (A) If a person charged with prostitution, sexual abuse, sexual assault, incest, or sexual
80 molestation who is ordered to be tested is unable to pay, the cost of the HIV testing may be borne
81 by the regional jail or other correctional or juvenile facility, the bureau, or the local health
82 department.

83 (B) If persons charged with prostitution, sexual abuse, sexual assault, incest, or sexual
84 molestation who is ordered to be tested has health insurance, the local health department or other
85 providers performing the test may bill the health insurance of the person charged with prostitution,
86 sexual abuse, sexual assault, incest, or sexual molestation for the cost of the test.

87 (C) A person charged with prostitution, sexual abuse, sexual assault, incest, or sexual
88 molestation ordered to submit to a HIV-related test may not be permitted to remain anonymous
89 and a local health department may administer and bill for the test.

90 (5) When the Commissioner of the Bureau for Public Health knows or has reason to
91 believe, because of medical or epidemiological information, that a person, including, but not
92 limited to, a person such as an IV drug abuser, or a person who may have a sexually transmitted
93 disease, or a person who has sexually molested, abused, or assaulted another, has HIV infection
94 and is or may be a danger to the public health, he or she may issue an order to:

95 (i) Require a person to be examined and tested to determine whether the person has HIV
96 infection;

97 (ii) Require a person with HIV infection to report to a qualified physician or health worker
98 for counseling; and

99 (iii) Direct a person with HIV infection to cease and desist from specified conduct which
100 endangers the health of others.

101 (6) If any person violates a cease and desist order issued pursuant to this section and, by
102 virtue of that violation, the person presents a danger to the health of others, the commissioner
103 shall apply to the circuit court of Kanawha County to enforce the cease and desist order by
104 imposing any restrictions upon the person that are necessary to prevent the specific conduct that
105 endangers the health of others.

106 (7) A person convicted of the offenses described in this section shall be required to
107 undergo HIV-related testing and counseling immediately upon conviction and the court having
108 jurisdiction of the criminal prosecution may not release the convicted person from custody and
109 shall revoke any order admitting the defendant to bail until HIV-related testing and counseling
110 have been performed and the result is known. The HIV-related test result obtained from the
111 convicted person is to be transmitted to the court and, after the convicted person is sentenced,
112 made part of the court record. If the convicted person is placed in the custody of the Division of
113 Corrections, the court shall transmit a copy of the convicted person's HIV-related test results to
114 the Division of Corrections. The HIV-related test results shall be closed and confidential and
115 disclosed by the court and the bureau only in accordance with the provisions of §16-3C-3 of this
116 code.

117 (8) The prosecuting attorney shall inform the victim, or parent or guardian of the victim, at
118 the earliest stage of the proceedings of the availability of voluntary HIV-related testing and
119 counseling conducted by the bureau and that his or her best health interest would be served by
120 submitting to HIV-related testing and counseling. HIV-related testing for the victim shall be

121 administered at his or her request on a confidential basis and shall be administered in accordance
122 with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines of the United States Public Health
123 Service in effect at the time of such request. The victim who obtains an HIV-related test shall be
124 provided with pre- and post-test counseling regarding the nature, reliability, and significance of
125 the HIV-related test and the confidential nature of the test. HIV-related testing and counseling
126 conducted pursuant to this subsection shall be performed by the designee of the commissioner
127 of the bureau or by any local or county health department having proper jurisdiction.

128 (9) If a person receives counseling or is tested under this subsection and is found to be
129 HIV infected and the person is not incarcerated, the person shall be referred by the health care
130 provider performing the counseling or testing for appropriate medical care and support services.
131 The local or county health departments or any other agency under this subsection may not be
132 financially responsible for medical care and support services.

133 (10) The commissioner of the bureau or his or her designees may require a person to
134 undergo an HIV or other sexually transmitted disease test if a person was possibly exposed to
135 HIV or other sexually transmitted disease infected blood or other body fluids as a result of
136 receiving or rendering emergency medical aid, providing funeral services or providing law-
137 enforcement services. The commissioner of the bureau or his or her designees may use the
138 results to determine the appropriate therapy, counseling, and psychological support for the
139 exposed person.

140 (11) If an HIV-related test required on persons convicted of prostitution, sexual abuse,
141 sexual assault, incest, or sexual molestation results in a negative reaction, upon motion of the
142 state, the court having jurisdiction over the criminal prosecution may require the subject of the
143 test to submit to further HIV-related tests performed under the direction of the bureau in
144 accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines of the United States
145 Public Health Service in effect at the time of the motion of the state.

146 (12) The costs of mandated testing and counseling provided under this subsection and
147 pre and postconviction HIV-related testing and counseling provided the victim under the direction
148 of the bureau pursuant to this subsection shall be paid by the individual to be tested or counseled
149 or his or her medical insurance provider, if possible.

150 (13) The court having jurisdiction of the criminal prosecution shall order a person convicted
151 of prostitution, sexual abuse, sexual assault, incest, or sexual molestation to pay restitution to the
152 state or the victim for the costs of any HIV-related testing and counseling provided the convicted
153 person and the victim, unless the court has determined the convicted person to be indigent.

154 (14) Any funds recovered by the state as a result of an award of restitution under this
155 subsection shall be paid into the State Treasury to the credit of a special revenue fund to be
156 known as the HIV-testing Fund which is hereby created. The moneys so credited to the fund may
157 be used solely by the bureau for the purposes of facilitating the performance of HIV-related testing
158 and counseling under the provisions of this article.

159 (i) Nothing in this section is applicable to any insurer regulated under §33-1-1 *et seq.* of
160 this code: *Provided*, That the commissioner of insurance shall develop standards regarding
161 ~~consent~~ for underwriting questions use used by insurers ~~which that~~ test for the presence of the
162 HIV antibody in connection with applications for life or health insurance policies. The standards
163 developed by the commissioner may not prescribe the HIV testing protocol to be used by insurers.
164 The legislative rule filed in the State Register on April 3, 2003, authorized under the authority of
165 §64-7-1(e) of this code, relating to standards for AIDS-related underwriting questions and AIDS
166 testing in connection with applications for life or health insurance policies (AIDS Regulations, 114
167 CSR 27) on page five, subsection (5) is stricken.

168 (j) Whenever consent of the subject to the performance of HIV-related testing is required
169 under ~~this article, §16-3C-1 et seq. of this code~~ any such consent obtained, whether orally or in
170 writing, ~~shall be considered to be~~ is a valid and informed consent if it is given after compliance
171 with the provisions of subsection (c) of this section.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to eliminate outdated HIV testing protocols to be used by insurers.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.