



The Illinois Health Information Exchange Authority Created by Public Act 96-1331

What is the purpose of the Illinois Health Information Exchange Authority?

The State of Illinois recognizes the potential of health information technology to improve the quality and efficiency of health care and has made it a policy priority to support the adoption and exchange of electronic medical records for the benefit of Illinois patients.

For its efforts, Illinois was awarded \$18.8 million as part of the Office of the National Coordinator's State Health Information Exchange (HIE) Cooperative Agreement Program "to build capacity for exchanging health information across the healthcare system."

The Illinois Health Information Exchange and Technology Act (P.A. 96-1331) established the Illinois Health Information Exchange Authority ("Authority") to serve as the governing entity to operate the Illinois Health Information Exchange (ILHIE), the statewide HIE.

The goal of the Authority is to provide a long-term governance structure, achieve broad based public input and stakeholder participation and provide a framework for oversight and accountability of the statewide HIE. The Authority will promote the adoption and meaningful use of health information technology and facilitate the secure exchange of health information for the benefit of all Illinoisans.

What are the Authority's responsibilities?

The Authority was established to create and administer the ILHIE. In conjunction with, and with administrative support from the Illinois Office of Health Information Technology (OHIT), the Authority will be responsible for implementing the strategies identified in the State's Strategic and Operational Plan to develop and enhance HIE capacity in Illinois and ensure that all Illinois patients and providers have access to the benefits of a statewide HIE.

The Authority will establish the policies and standards for the use of health information and for participation in the ILHIE. The Authority shall establish standards for accessing the ILHIE to ensure that appropriate privacy and security protections apply to health information. The Authority will also be responsible for public education and identifying barriers to the adoption of electronic health records systems.

What is the composition of the Authority?

The Authority will be governed by one Executive Director and eight directors to be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. In addition, the directors of the Illinois Departments of Healthcare and Family Services, Public Health, and Insurance and the Secretary of the Illinois Department of Human Services, or their designees, and a designee of the Office of the Governor, will serve as ex-officio members of the Authority.

Who is represented on the Authority?

The Executive Director and eight directors will reflect broad geographic representation as well as a wide spectrum of healthcare providers and stakeholders. Stakeholders to be considered for representation on the board include: health care consumers, consumer advocates, physicians, nurses, hospitals, federally qualified health centers, health plans or third-party payers, employers, public health entities, behavioral health providers, home health agency organizations, long-term care providers, health information technology, other health care service providers and academics.

For appointment to the Authority's board, the State will seek individuals recognized as leaders in their fields and having expertise related to health information technology.

What are the terms of office for members of the Authority?

The Executive Director and the eight directors shall be appointed for three-year staggered terms. Of the members first appointed, three shall be appointed for a term of one year, three shall be appointed for a term of two years, and three shall be appointed for a term of three years.

What is the role of The Health Information Exchange Authority Advisory Committee?

The Authority will appoint an Illinois Health Information Exchange Authority Advisory Committee ("Advisory Committee"), to advise and provide recommendations to the Authority regarding the operation of the ILHIE. Like the Authority, the Advisory Committee will represent diverse health care stakeholder groups.

What is the process for becoming a Board or Advisory Committee member of the Authority?

Nominations for the Authority Board of Directors and the Advisory Committee can be submitted to the Illinois' Board and Commissions appointments website, <http://www.appointments.illinois.gov>.

When will the Authority be operational?

Once the Board of Directors has been appointed and is able to adopt bylaws and policies, it can begin operations. This is expected to occur by the Fall of 2010.

How will the Authority be funded?

The Authority has statutory power to solicit grants, loans, contributions or appropriations from public and private sources and can collect fees from any healthcare provider or entity in connection with the Authority's duties.