

## **HOUSE BILL 123:**Criminal Falsification of Medical Records.

## 2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee: House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the Date: April 2, 2025

House

Introduced by: Rep. Pless Prepared by: Debbie Griffiths
Analysis of: Second Edition Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: House Bill 123 would create offenses related to the willful destruction, alteration, or falsification of, or willful omission of information from medical records for the purpose of concealing actions taken by a health care provider when providing medical services which may result in a claim against the health care provider. It would also make it an offense for a health care provider or other individual to offer or receive money or any thing of value in exchange for the destruction, alteration, or falsification of, or omission of information from medical records for the purpose of concealing actions taken by a health care provider when providing medical services which may result in a claim against the health care provider.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** House Bill 123 would create the offense of willful destruction, alteration, or falsification of, or willful omission of information from medical records. For the purposes of this offense, the following definitions would apply:

- Health care provider. Any individual who is licensed, certified, or credentialed under Chapters 90, 90B, or 90C of the General Statutes, or Article 7 of Chapter 131E of the General Statutes.
- Medical record. Personal information that relates to an individual's physical or mental condition, medical history, or medical treatment.

A health care provider would be guilty of the offense if the healthcare provider knowingly and willfully destroys, alters, or falsifies a medical record, or omits information from a medical record, directs another individual to do so, or conspires with one or more medical providers to do so for any of the following purposes:

- Concealment of the commission of a medical error, or abuse or neglect of a patient, by a health care provider in providing medical services that caused serious injury or death to a patient. This would be a Class H felony which has punishment ranges from unsupervised probation to an active sentence of 4 months minimum to 39 months maximum, depending on prior record level.
- Concealment of any material fact relating to any other potential claim or cause of action arising
  from a health care provider providing medical services. This would be a Class A1 misdemeanor
  which has punishment ranges from a fine to an active sentence of 150 days, depending on the prior
  record level.

A health care provider or other individual who offers or receives money or anything of value in exchange for the destruction of, alteration of, falsification of, or omission of information from a medical record for either purpose above would be guilty of a Class I felony which has punishment ranges from unsupervised probation to an active sentence of 3 months minimum to 24 months maximum, depending on prior record level.

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Nothing in this section would affect any civil remedies available.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This act would become effective December 1, 2025, and apply to offenses committed on or after that date.

Susan Sitze and Hannah Kendrick, Staff Attorneys for the Legislative Analysis Division, substantially contributed to this summary.