



Position Statement

H.R. 2406: Healthcare Information Technology Enterprise Integration Act

Call to Action

H.R. 2406 was introduced in the House of Representatives by Representative Barton Gordon (D-TN) on May 21, 2007 to authorize the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to boost its support of the integration of the healthcare information enterprise. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Science and Technology, which amended the bill and on November 15, 2007, placed it on the Calendar for debate in the whole House of Representatives.

Section 2 reports the findings of Congress that the NIST's increased efforts to partake in the development of technical standards and in ensuring that all parts of the healthcare infrastructure are compatible to be a part of an electronic information network are in the nation's best interest.

Section 3 authorized the Director of NIST to establish an initiative for advancing healthcare information enterprise integration within the United States. In carrying out this section, the Director should focus on several technical activities outlined. These activities include information technology standards, interoperability analysis, and information management (including electronic health records management) among others. The Director will report on the progress of the activities authorized under this section to the Committee on Science and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate no later than ninety days following the enactment on this Act, and annually thereafter.

Section 4 stipulates that within twelve months of the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of NIST must collaborate with the industry and Federal agencies to report on the development of technology-neutral information technology infrastructure guidelines as well as the adoption of these guidelines so that the Federal agencies may enable industry agencies to effectively implement healthcare information technology in a way that (1) meets the security standards of the agencies, their transaction partners, and the general public, (2) is interoperable, and (3) is in agreement with Federal attempts to reconcile existing standards. The elements that must be included in the developed guidelines are outlined in this section as well. In addition to the report expected twelve months after enactment of this Act, the Director of NIST shall report on the level of interoperability and security of healthcare information technology used among Federal agencies in addition to the problems the Federal agencies are facing with the respective elements within eighteen months of the enactment of this Act.

Section 5 requires the Director of NIST, in conjunction with the Director of the National Science Foundation, to establish multidisciplinary Centers for Healthcare Information Enterprise Integration in order to promote research on and innovative approaches to healthcare information enterprise integration. The Director will also create a Task Force for Health Terminology Standards Development that will report its finding to Committee on Science and Technology of the House of Representative no later than eighteen months following the enactment of this Act.

Section 6 makes appropriations to the Director of NIST for the carrying out of the Act.

Closing Remarks

HIMSS will continue to **monitor this piece of legislation** for any changes and movement during the course of the 110th Congress. Questions on this fact sheet should be addressed to Dave Roberts, FHIMSS, HIMSS Vice President for Government Relations, at 703.837.9811 or via email at droberts@himss.org.