



**Senate Fiscal Agency**  
**P. O. Box 30036**  
**Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536**

BILL



ANALYSIS

**Telephone: (517) 373-5383**  
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House Bill 5012 (as reported without amendment)

Sponsor: Representative John Llewellyn

House Committee: Insurance

Senate Committee: Financial Services

### **CONTENT**

The bill would amend the Revised Judicature Act (RJA) to specify that, if a patient died, the beneficiary of the patient's life insurance policy, or the patient's heirs at law, could waive the doctor-patient privilege for the purpose of providing the necessary documentation to a life insurer in examining a claim for benefits.

The RJA generally prohibits a person authorized to practice medicine or surgery from disclosing any information acquired in "attending a patient in a professional character". Currently, if a patient dies, the patient's heirs at law are considered the deceased patient's personal representatives for the purpose of waiving the doctor-patient privilege in a contest over admitting the patient's will to probate.

MCL 600.2157

Legislative Analyst: P. Affholter

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The bill would have no fiscal impact on State or local government.

Date Completed: 11-1-95

Fiscal Analyst: M. Bain