

113<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 5537

To require the Comptroller General to conduct a study of the interoperability of computer systems used by hospitals to store and access electronic health records, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2014

Mr. MCKINLEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To require the Comptroller General to conduct a study of the interoperability of computer systems used by hospitals to store and access electronic health records, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. STUDY ON INTEROPERABILITY OF COMPUTER**  
4                               **SYSTEMS USED BY HOSPITALS TO STORE AND**  
5                               **ACCESS ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS.**

6       (a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General shall conduct  
7       a study of the interoperability of computer systems used

1 by hospitals to store and access electronic health records,  
2 which shall explore—

3           (1) the extent to which it is possible for such  
4 computer systems to be interoperable to enable au-  
5 thorized personnel of more than one hospital to ac-  
6 cess and update the electronic health records of the  
7 same patient;

8           (2) the identity of hospitals in the United  
9 States that use, at the time the study is conducted,  
10 computer systems with the ability to allow author-  
11 ized personnel of more than one hospital to access  
12 and update the electronic health records of the same  
13 patient;

14           (3) the reasons why hospitals in the United  
15 States do not have computer systems with such abil-  
16 ity at the time the study is conducted; and

17           (4) the extent to which increased interoper-  
18 ability of such computer systems allows hospitals to  
19 more effectively coordinate the care of patients.

20       (b) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after date of  
21 the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall  
22 submit to the Committee on Ways and Means of the  
23 House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy  
24 and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report  
25 on the study conducted under subsection (a), including

1 such recommendations as the Comptroller General con-  
2 siders appropriate regarding the use of interoperable com-  
3 puter systems by hospitals to store and access electronic  
4 health records as a method of improving the coordination  
5 of care of patients.

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