

JAY INSLEE  
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May 18, 2021

To the Honorable Speaker and Members,  
The House of Representatives of the State of Washington

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am returning herewith, without my approval, Second Substitute House Bill No. 1127 entitled:

“AN ACT Relating to protecting the privacy and security of COVID-19 health data collected by entities other than public health agencies, health care providers, and health care facilities.”

2SHB 1127 is a thoughtful, important proposal addressing privacy and confidentiality issues related to every person's COVID-19 health data when that data is collected, disclosed or used by entities other than public health agencies, health care providers, and health care facilities. I fully support these goals. The intent of the proposal was to address data collected during contact tracing work, however the plain language of the bill is very broad and covers other COVID-related information that was not contemplated at the time of drafting. For example, this bill appears to prohibit efforts by public and private entities to offer incentives to become vaccinated or to make certain opportunities available to those persons who are vaccinated. The current critical need to incentivize every eligible person to become vaccinated is an issue that did not exist, and was not contemplated, at the time this bill was drafted or made its way through the legislative process. I have spoken with the bill's prime sponsor, and my office will work with Representative Slatter and stakeholders to advance the policy goals in 2SHB 1127 both in the short term and long term.

For these reasons I have vetoed Second Substitute House Bill No. 1127 in its entirety.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee".

Jay Inslee  
Governor