Senate File 2338

H-8216

Amend the amendment, H-8173, to Senate File 2338, as passed by the Senate, as follows:

1. By striking page 1, line 2, through page 7, line 9, and inserting:

   <___>  Page 1, by striking lines 1 through 14 and inserting:

   <DIVISION ___>

   EVIDENCE OF MEDICAL EXPENSES AND RECOVERABLE DAMAGES FOR MEDICAL EXPENSES>

   ___> Page 2, after line 5 by inserting:

   <DIVISION ___>

   COVID-19 RELATED LIABILITY

Sec. ___. NEW SECTION. 686D.1 Short title.

This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "COVID-19 Response, Back to Business, Employer Protection, Worker Protection, Patient Protection, and Nursing Home Resident Protection Limited Liability Act".

Sec. ___. NEW SECTION. 686D.2 Definitions.

When used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "COVID-19" means the novel coronavirus identified as SARS-CoV-2, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 or a virus mutating therefrom, and conditions associated with the disease caused by the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 or a virus mutating therefrom.

2. "Disinfecting or cleaning supplies" means and includes hand sanitizers, disinfectants, sprays, and wipes.

3. "Health care facility" means and includes all of the following:

a. A facility as defined in section 514J.102.

b. A facility licensed pursuant to chapter 135B.

c. A facility licensed pursuant to chapter 135C.

d. Residential care facilities, nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities for persons with mental illness, intermediate care facilities for persons with intellectual disabilities, hospice programs, elder group homes, and assisted
living programs.

4. "Health care professional" means physicians and other health care practitioners who are licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized or permitted by the laws of this state to administer health care services in the ordinary course of business or in the practice of a profession, whether paid or unpaid, including persons engaged in telemedicine or telehealth. "Health care professional" includes the employer or agent of a health care professional who provides or arranges health care.

5. "Health care provider" means and includes a health care professional, health care facility, home health care facility, and any other person or facility otherwise authorized or permitted by any federal or state statute, regulation, order, or public health guidance to administer health care services or treatment.

6. "Health care services" means services for the diagnosis, prevention, treatment, care, cure, or relief of a health condition, illness, injury, or disease.


8. "Person" means the same as defined in section 4.1. "Person" includes an agent of a person.

9. "Personal protective equipment" means and includes protective clothing, gloves, face shields, goggles, facemasks, respirators, gowns, aprons, coveralls, and other equipment designed to protect the wearer from injury or the spread of infection or illness.

10. "Premises" means and includes any real property and any appurtenant building or structure serving a commercial, residential, educational, religious, governmental, cultural, charitable, or health care purpose.

11. "Public health guidance" means and includes written guidance related to COVID-19 issued by any of the following: 
   a. The centers for disease control and prevention of the
1 federal department of health and human services.
2   b. The centers for Medicare and Medicaid services of the
3 federal department of health and human services.
4   c. The federal occupational safety and health
5 administration.
6   d. The office of the governor.
7   e. Any state agency, including the department of public
8 health.
9 12. "Qualified product" means and includes all of the
10 following:
11    a. Personal protective equipment used to protect the wearer
12 from COVID-19 or to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
13    b. Medical devices, equipment, and supplies used to treat
14 COVID-19, including medical devices, equipment, or supplies
15 that are used or modified for an unapproved use to treat
16 COVID-19 or to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
17    c. Medical devices, equipment, and supplies used outside of
18 their normal use to treat COVID-19 or to prevent the spread of
19 COVID-19.
20    d. Medications used to treat COVID-19, including medications
21 prescribed or dispensed for off-label use to attempt to treat
22 COVID-19.
23    e. Tests to diagnose or determine immunity to COVID-19.
24    f. Any component of an item described in paragraphs "a"
25 through "e".
26 Sec. ___. NEW SECTION. 686D.3 Civil actions alleging
27 COVID-19 exposure.
28 A person shall not bring or maintain a civil action alleging
29 exposure or potential exposure to COVID-19 unless one of the
30 following applies:
31 1. The civil action relates to a minimum medical condition.
32 2. The civil action involves an act that was intended to
33 cause harm.
34 3. The civil action involves an act that constitutes actual
35 malice.
Sec. ___. NEW SECTION. 686D.4 Premises owner's duty of care — limited liability.

A person who possesses or is in control of a premises, including a tenant, lessee, or occupant of a premises, who directly or indirectly invites or permits an individual onto a premises, shall not be liable for civil damages for any injuries sustained from the individual's exposure to COVID-19, whether the exposure occurs on the premises or during any activity managed by the person who possesses or is in control of a premises, if the person qualifies for the protection afforded by section 686D.5.

Sec. ___. NEW SECTION. 686D.5 Safe harbor for compliance with regulations, executive orders, or public health guidance.

A person in this state shall not be held liable for civil damages for any injuries sustained from exposure or potential exposure to COVID-19 if the act or omission alleged to violate a duty of care was in substantial compliance or was consistent with any federal or state statute, regulation, order, or public health guidance related to COVID-19 that was applicable to the person or activity at issue at the time of the alleged exposure or potential exposure.

Sec. ___. NEW SECTION. 686D.6 Liability of health care providers.

A health care provider that qualifies for the protection afforded by section 686D.5 shall not be liable for civil damages for causing or contributing, directly or indirectly, to the death or injury of an individual as a result of the health care provider's acts or omissions while providing or arranging health care in support of the state's response to COVID-19. This section shall apply to all of the following:

1. Injury or death resulting from screening, assessing, diagnosing, caring for, or treating individuals with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19.

2. Prescribing, administering, or dispensing a pharmaceutical for off-label use to treat a patient with a
suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19.

3. Acts or omissions while providing health care to individuals unrelated to COVID-19 when those acts or omissions support the state’s response to COVID-19, including any of the following:

   a. Delaying or canceling nonurgent or elective dental, medical, or surgical procedures, or altering the diagnosis or treatment of an individual in response to any federal or state statute, regulation, order, or public health guidance.

   b. Diagnosing or treating patients outside the normal scope of the health care provider’s license or practice.

   c. Using medical devices, equipment, or supplies outside of their normal use for the provision of health care, including using or modifying medical devices, equipment, or supplies for an unapproved use.

   d. Conducting tests or providing treatment to any individual outside the premises of a health care facility.

Sec. ___. NEW SECTION. 686D.7 Supplies, equipment, and products designed, manufactured, labeled, sold, distributed, and donated in response to COVID-19.

1. Any person that qualifies for the protection afforded by section 686D.5 that designs, manufactures, labels, sells, distributes, or donates household disinfecting or cleaning supplies, personal protective equipment, or a qualified product in response to COVID-19 shall not be liable in a civil action alleging personal injury, death, or property damage caused by or resulting from the design, manufacturing, labeling, selling, distributing, or donating of the household disinfecting or cleaning supplies, personal protective equipment, or a qualified product.

2. Any person that designs, manufactures, labels, sells, distributes, or donates household disinfecting or cleaning supplies, personal protective equipment, or a qualified product in response to COVID-19 shall not be liable in a civil action alleging personal injury, death, or property damage caused by
1 or resulting from a failure to provide proper instructions or
2 sufficient warnings.
3 Sec. __.  **NEW SECTION.** 686D.8 Construction.
4 This chapter shall not be construed to affect the rights or
5 limits under workers' compensation as provided in chapter 85,
6 85A, or 85B.
7 Sec. __.  **NEW SECTION.** 686D.9 Repeal.
8 This chapter is repealed December 31, 2022.>>

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MEYER of Polk