House Amendment to
Senate File 2338

S-5111

Amend Senate File 2338, as passed by the Senate, as follows:

1. Page 1, by striking lines 1 through 14 and inserting:

   <DIVISION I

   EVIDENCE OF MEDICAL EXPENSES AND RECOVERABLE DAMAGES FOR

   MEDICAL EXPENSES>

2. 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 and Back-to-Business 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.
7. "Minimum medical condition" means a diagnosis of COVID-19
that requires inpatient hospitalization or results in death.
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
federal department of health and human services.
b. The centers for Medicare and Medicaid services of the
federal department of health and human services.
c. The federal occupational safety and health
administration.
d. The office of the governor.

e. Any state agency, including the department of public health.

12. "Qualified product" means and includes all of the following:

a. Personal protective equipment used to protect the wearer from COVID-19 or to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

b. Medical devices, equipment, and supplies used to treat COVID-19, including medical devices, equipment, or supplies that are used or modified for an unapproved use to treat COVID-19 or to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

c. Medical devices, equipment, and supplies used outside of their normal use to treat COVID-19 or to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

d. Medications used to treat COVID-19, including medications prescribed or dispensed for off-label use to attempt to treat COVID-19.

e. Tests to diagnose or determine immunity to COVID-19.

f. Any component of an item described in paragraphs "a" through "e".

Sec. ___. NEW SECTION. 686D.3 Actual injury requirement in civil actions alleging COVID-19 exposure.

A person shall not bring or maintain a civil action alleging exposure or potential exposure to COVID-19 unless one of the following applies:

1. The civil action relates to a minimum medical condition.

2. The civil action involves an act that was intended to cause harm.

3. The civil action involves an act that constitutes actual 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, unless any of the following apply to the person who possesses or is in control of the premises:

1. The person who possesses or is in control of the premises recklessly disregards a substantial and unnecessary risk that the individual would be exposed to COVID-19.

2. The person who possesses or is in control of the premises exposes the individual to COVID-19 through an act that constitutes actual malice.

3. The person who possesses or is in control of the premises intentionally exposes the individual to COVID-19.

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.

1. A health care provider 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 subsection shall apply to all of the following:

a. Injury or death resulting from screening, assessing, diagnosing, caring for, or treating individuals with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19.
b. Prescribing, administering, or dispensing a pharmaceutical for off-label use to treat a patient with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19.

c. 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:

(1) 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.

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

(3) 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.

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

(5) Acts or omissions undertaken by a health care provider because of a lack of staffing, facilities, medical devices, equipment, supplies, or other resources attributable to COVID-19 that renders the health care provider unable to provide the level or manner of care to any person that otherwise would have been required in the absence of COVID-19.

(6) Acts or omissions undertaken by a health care provider relating to use or nonuse of personal protective equipment.

2. This section shall not relieve any person of liability for civil damages for any act or omission which constitutes recklessness or willful misconduct.

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 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 or resulting from a failure to provide proper instructions or sufficient warnings.

3. This section shall not apply in the event of any of the following:
   a. The person that designs, manufactures, labels, sells, distributes, or donates household disinfecting or cleaning supplies, personal protective equipment, or a qualified product had actual knowledge of a defect in the household disinfecting or cleaning supplies, personal protective equipment, or a qualified product when put to the use for which the household disinfecting or cleaning supplies, personal protective equipment, or a qualified product was designed, manufactured, sold, distributed, or donated, and the person recklessly disregarded a substantial and unnecessary risk that the household disinfecting or cleaning supplies, personal protective equipment, or a qualified product would cause serious personal injury, death, or serious property damage.
   b. The person that designs, manufactures, labels, sells, distributes, or donates household disinfecting or cleaning supplies, personal protective equipment, or a qualified product acted with actual malice.

Sec. ___. NEW SECTION. 686D.8 Construction.

This chapter shall not be construed to do any of the
1 following:
2   1. Create, recognize, or ratify a claim or cause of action
3 of any kind.
4   2. Eliminate or satisfy a required element of a claim or
5 cause of action of any kind.
6   3. Affect the rights or limits under workers' compensation
7 as provided in chapter 85, 85A, or 85B, or the rights or limits
8 related to police officers or fire fighters under chapter 410
9 or 411.
10   4. Abrogate, amend, repeal, alter, or affect any statutory
11 or common law immunity or limitation of liability.
12   Sec. ___. RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY. This division of this
13 Act applies retroactively to January 1, 2020.>
14   3. Title page, by striking lines 1 through 4 and inserting
15 <An Act relating to civil actions, including recoverable
16 damages for medical expenses, evidence offered to prove
17 past medical expenses, and civil actions related to the
18 novel coronavirus, and including retroactive applicability
19 provisions.>
20   4. By renumbering as necessary.