

CHAPTER 1050
PRODUCT LIABILITY ACTIONS
H.F. 2170

AN ACT relating to product liability actions.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

Section 1. Section 668.12, Code 2003, is amended to read as follows:

~~668.12 LIABILITY FOR PRODUCTS — STATE OF THE ART DEFENSE DEFENSES.~~

1. In any action brought pursuant to this chapter against an assembler, designer, supplier of specifications, distributor, manufacturer, or seller for damages arising from an alleged defect in the design, testing, manufacturing, formulation, packaging, warning, or labeling of a product, a percentage of fault shall not be assigned to such persons if they plead and prove that the product conformed to the state of the art in existence at the time the product was designed, tested, manufactured, formulated, packaged, provided with a warning, or labeled.

2. Nothing contained in this section subsection 1 shall diminish the duty of an assembler, designer, supplier of specifications, distributor, manufacturer or seller to warn concerning subsequently acquired knowledge of a defect or dangerous condition that would render the product unreasonably dangerous for its foreseeable use or diminish the liability for failure to so warn.

3. An assembler, designer, supplier of specifications, distributor, manufacturer, or seller shall not be subject to liability for failure to warn regarding risks and risk-avoidance measures that should be obvious to, or generally known by, foreseeable product users. When reasonable minds may differ as to whether the risk or risk-avoidance measure was obvious or generally known, the issues shall be decided by the trier of fact.

4. In any action brought pursuant to this chapter against an assembler, designer, supplier of specifications, distributor, manufacturer, or seller for damages arising from an alleged defect in packaging, warning, or labeling of a product, a product bearing or accompanied by a reasonable and visible warning or instruction that is reasonably safe for use if the warning or instruction is followed shall not be deemed defective or unreasonably dangerous on the basis of failure to warn or instruct. When reasonable minds may differ as to whether the warning or instruction is reasonable and visible, the issues shall be decided by the trier of fact.

Approved April 8, 2004

CHAPTER 1051
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION PRACTICES
— REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS
H.F. 2315

AN ACT relating to agricultural conservation practices.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

Section 1. Section 468.126, subsection 1, paragraph c, Code 2003, is amended to read as follows:

c. If the estimated cost of a repair exceeds ten fifteen thousand dollars, or seventy-five

percent of the original total cost of the district and subsequent improvements, whichever is the greater amount, the board shall set a date for a hearing on the matter of making the proposed repairs, and shall give notice as provided in sections 468.14 through 468.18. If a hearing is required and the estimated cost of the repair exceeds twenty-five thousand dollars, an engineer's report or a report from the soil and water conservation district conservationist shall be presented at the hearing. The requirement of a report may be waived by the board if a prior report on the repair exists and that report is less than ten years old. The board shall not divide proposed repairs into separate programs in order to avoid the notice and hearing requirements of this paragraph. At the hearing the board shall hear objections to the feasibility of the proposed repairs, and following the hearing the board shall order that the repairs it deems desirable and feasible be made. Any interested party has the right of appeal from such orders in the manner provided in this subchapter, parts 1 through 5.

Sec. 2. Section 468.126, subsection 2, Code 2003, is amended to read as follows:

2. In the case of minor repairs, or in the eradication of brush and weeds along the open ditches, not in excess of ~~ten~~ fifteen thousand dollars where the board finds that a saving to the district will result the board may cause the repairs or eradication to be done by secondary road equipment, or weed fund equipment, and labor of the county and then reimburse the secondary road fund or the weed fund from the fund of the drainage district thus benefited.

Sec. 3. Section 468.126, subsection 4, paragraph a, Code 2003, is amended to read as follows:

a. When the board determines that improvements are necessary or desirable, the board shall appoint an engineer to make surveys as seem appropriate to determine the nature and extent of the needed improvements, and to file a report showing what improvements are recommended and their estimated costs, which report may be amended before final action. If the estimated cost of the improvements does not exceed ~~ten~~ fifteen thousand dollars, or twenty-five percent of the original cost of the district and subsequent improvements, whichever is the greater amount, the board may order the work done without notice. The board shall not divide proposed improvements into separate programs in order to avoid the limitation for making improvements without notice. If the board deems it desirable to make improvements where the estimated cost exceeds the ~~ten~~ fifteen thousand dollar or twenty-five percent limit, the board shall set a date for a hearing on the matter of constructing the proposed improvements and also on the matter of whether there shall be a reclassification of benefits for the cost of the proposed improvements, and shall give notice as provided in sections 468.14 through 468.18. At the hearing the board shall hear objections to the feasibility of the proposed improvements and arguments for or against a reclassification presented by or for any taxpayer of the district. Following the hearing the board shall order that the improvements it deems desirable and feasible be made, and shall also determine whether there should be a reclassification of benefits for the cost of improvements. If it is determined that a reclassification of benefits should be made the board shall proceed as provided in section 468.38. In lieu of publishing the notice of a hearing as provided by this subsection the board may mail a copy of the notice to each address where a landowner in the district resides by first class mail if the cost of mailing is less than publication of the notice. The mailing shall be made during the time the notice would otherwise be required to be published.

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