

3207

Sponsor(s): Representatives Carrell, Bailey, McMahan, Bush, Hinkle, Cairnes, Kristiansen, Talcott, Crouse, Delvin, Orcutt, Sump, Pearson, Mielke, Condotta, Benson, Roach, Boldt, Shabro, Newhouse, Holmquist, Priest, Ahern, Alexander, Chandler, Armstrong, Clements, Skinner, Buck, Woods, Nixon, McDonald, Cox, Schindler, Schoesler and Rodne

Brief Description: Providing for omnibus civil liability reform.

HB 3207 - DIGEST

Finds that counties, cities, other governmental entities, professionals, health care providers, businesses, individuals, and nonprofit organizations are finding it increasingly difficult to find affordable liability insurance. One of the drivers increasing the cost of liability insurance is the potential liability beyond one's proportionate share of fault that a defendant must be insured against.

Declares an intent of the legislature to enact reforms that create a more equitable distribution of liability based upon one's proportionate share of fault.

Finds, notwithstanding the tort reform measures it has enacted in the past, that in many instances defendants continue to pay more than their proportionate share of a claimant's total damages. The legislature in the 1986 tort reform act adopted as the policy of this state that several, or proportionate, liability is the general rule, subject to certain limited exceptions.

Declares an intent to limit further the exceptions to the general rule of several or proportionate liability.

Requires the secretary of state to submit this act to the people for their adoption and ratification, or rejection, at the next general election to be held in this state, in accordance with Article II, section 1 of the state Constitution and the laws adopted to facilitate its operation.