

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
115TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 253, L.D. 344, Bill, "An Act to Establish a Limit on Noneconomic Damages in Medical Liability Actions"

Amend the bill in the first line after the enacting clause (page 1, line 3 in L.D.) by inserting at the beginning the following: 'Sec. 1.'

Further amend the bill in that part designated "~~S2981.~~" in subsection 2 in the 3rd line (page 1, line 21 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "~~\$250,000.~~" and inserting in its place the following: '\$500,000.'

Further amend the bill in that part designated "~~S2981.~~" in subsection 2 in the 6th line (page 1, line 24 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "~~\$250,000.~~" and inserting in its place the following: '\$500,000.'

Further amend the bill in that part designated "~~S2981.~~" in subsection 2 in the 4th line from the end (page 1, line 27 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "~~\$250,000.~~" and inserting in its place the following: '\$500,000.'

Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the statement of fact the following:

Sec. 2. Committee study. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters shall study the impact that the change in law enacted by this Act has on medical malpractice insurance premiums. The study must be completed and a report, including any necessary implementing legislation, submitted by the joint standing committee to the Legislature by November 1, 1993.

SENATE AMENDMENT

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FISCAL NOTE

This bill establishes a limit on noneconomic damages in medical liability actions and will have an impact on professional liability claims. Costs to the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Insurance, related to the consideration of insurer filed and approved rates and increased limit charges, can be absorbed by the bureau within existing resources.

If the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary is required to hold meetings to study the impact of this bill when the Legislature is not in session, the Legislature will require a General Fund appropriation for the per diem and expenses of the members of that committee. The exact amount of the appropriation required can not be determined.'

STATEMENT OF FACT

This amendment raises the limit on noneconomic damages allowed to \$500,000 and requires the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters to study the impact of the limitation and report to the Legislature by November 1, 1993.

(Senator BALDACCI)
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