

Second Regular Session
Sixty-sixth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 08-0821.02 Brita Darling

SENATE BILL 08-164

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Groff,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Carroll T.,

Senate Committees
State, Veterans & Military Affairs

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE ALIGNMENT OF THE LIMITATION ON DAMAGES FOR**
102 **NONECONOMIC LOSS OR INJURY IN ACTIONS BROUGHT**
103 **PURSUANT TO THE "HEALTH CARE AVAILABILITY ACT" WITH**
104 **THE LIMITATION ON DAMAGES FOR NONECONOMIC LOSS OR**
105 **INJURY IN GENERAL CIVIL ACTIONS.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not necessarily reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted.)

Amends the definition of "direct noneconomic loss or injury" in actions brought under the "Health Care Availability Act" to exclude physical impairment or disfigurement.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

Aligns limitations on damages for noneconomic loss or injury in a medical malpractice case with the limitations for noneconomic loss or injury in other civil cases for acts or omissions occurring on or after July 1, 2008.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** 13-64-302 (1) (a) and (1) (c), Colorado Revised
3 Statutes, are amended, and the said 13-64-302 (1) is further amended BY
4 THE ADDITION OF A NEW PARAGRAPH, to read:

5 **13-64-302. Limitation of liability - interest on damages.**

6 (1) (a) As used in this section:

7 (I) "Derivative noneconomic loss or injury" means noneconomic
8 loss or injury to persons other than the person suffering the direct or
9 primary loss or injury. "Derivative noneconomic loss or injury" does not
10 include punitive or exemplary damages.

11 (II) (A) "Direct noneconomic loss or injury" means nonpecuniary
12 harm for which damages are recoverable by the person suffering the
13 direct or primary loss or injury, including pain and suffering,
14 inconvenience, emotional stress, ~~physical impairment or disfigurement,~~
15 and impairment of the quality of life. "Direct noneconomic loss or
16 injury" does not include punitive or exemplary damages, OR DAMAGES
17 FOR PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENT OR DISFIGUREMENT.

18 (B) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a
19 recovery for economic damages, whether past or future, resulting from
20 physical impairment or disfigurement.

21 (c) ~~Effective~~ FOR ACTS OR OMISSIONS OCCURRING BETWEEN July
22 1, 2003, AND JUNE 30, 2008, the damages limitation of two hundred fifty
23 thousand dollars described in paragraph (b) of this subsection (1) shall be

1 increased to three hundred thousand dollars. ~~which increased amount~~
2 ~~shall apply to acts or omissions occurring on or after said date.~~ It is the
3 intent of the general assembly that the increase reflect an adjustment for
4 inflation to the damages limitation.

5 (d) FOR ACTS OR OMISSIONS OCCURRING ON OR AFTER JULY 1,
6 2008, THE DAMAGES LIMITATION ON DIRECT OR DERIVATIVE
7 NONECONOMIC LOSS OR INJURY DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (b) OF THIS
8 SUBSECTION (1) SHALL BE AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 13-21-102.5 (3).

9 **SECTION 2.** 13-21-102.5 (3) (a), Colorado Revised Statutes, is
10 amended to read:

11 **13-21-102.5. Limitations on damages for noneconomic loss or**
12 **injury.** (3) (a) In any civil action ~~other than medical malpractice actions~~
13 in which damages for noneconomic loss or injury may be awarded, the
14 total of such damages shall not exceed the sum of two hundred fifty
15 thousand dollars, unless the court finds justification by clear and
16 convincing evidence therefor. In no case shall the amount of
17 noneconomic loss or injury damages exceed five hundred thousand
18 dollars. ~~The damages for noneconomic loss or injury in a medical~~
19 ~~malpractice action shall not exceed the limitations on noneconomic loss~~
20 ~~or injury specified in section 13-64-302.~~

21 **SECTION 3. Applicability.** This act shall apply to acts or
22 omissions occurring on or after the effective date of this act.

23 **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
24 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
25 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.