

SENATE FILE NO. SF0034

Medical injury-expert witnesses.

Sponsored by: Joint Labor, Health and Social Services
Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to civil actions; specifying requirements
2 for expert witnesses in medical injury or death actions;
3 and providing for an effective date.

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5 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

6

7 **Section 1.** W.S. 1-1-129 is created to read:

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9 **1-1-129. Medical injury actions; expert witnesses.**

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11 (a) In any action for injury or death against a
12 licensed physician, whether in contract or in tort, arising
13 out of the provision of, or failure to provide, health care
14 services, a person may qualify as an expert witness on the
15 issue of the appropriate medical standard of care if the
16 witness:

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2 (i) Is licensed in this state, or some other
3 state, as a doctor of medicine or osteopathy;

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5 (ii) Is trained and experienced in the same
6 discipline or school of practice as the defendant;

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8 (iii) When certified, is certified by a board
9 recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties in
10 a specialty having acknowledged expertise and training
11 directly related to the particular health care or matter at
12 issue; and

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14 (iv) Within five (5) years of the date of the
15 alleged occurrence giving rise to the claim, was in active
16 medical practice in the same discipline or school of
17 practice as the defendant or devoted a substantial portion
18 of his time teaching at an accredited medical school, or in
19 university-based research, in relation to the medical care
20 and type of treatment at issue.

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22 (b) A person who is licensed in another state and who
23 testifies as an expert witness in this state in any action
24 for injury or death against a physician, whether in

1 contract or tort, arising out of the provision of, or
2 failure to provide, health care services, shall be deemed
3 to have a temporary license to practice medicine in this
4 state for the purpose of providing the testimony and shall
5 be subject to the authority of the board of medicine and
6 the provisions of W.S. 33-26-401 et seq.

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8 (c) In any action for injury or death against a
9 physician, whether in contract or tort, arising out of the
10 provision of, or failure to provide, health care services,
11 the court may allow cross-examination of a medical expert
12 witness as to:

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14 (i) The amount of compensation that the witness
15 has or will receive for the witness's consultation and
16 testimony;

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18 (ii) The frequency of the physician's expert
19 witness activities;

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21 (iii) The proportion of the witness'
22 professional time devoted to and income derived from such
23 activities; and

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1 (iv) The frequency with which the witness
2 testifies for either plaintiffs or defendants.

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4 (d) A medical expert witness shall not testify on a
5 contingency fee basis. A person who violates this section
6 shall be guilty of unprofessional conduct, as provided by
7 W.S. 33-26-403(a) (xxvii).

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9 (e) In any action for injury or death against a
10 physician, whether in contract or in tort, arising out of
11 the provision of, or failure to provide, health care
12 services, medical evidence shall not be admissible in court
13 that:

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15 (i) Is provided by a medical expert witness who
16 has agreed to provide medical testimony on a contingency
17 fee basis; or

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19 (ii) Has been obtained pursuant to an agreement
20 with a third party who receives a contingency fee for:

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22 (A) Providing a medical expert for review
23 of medical injury claims;

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1 (B) Locating medical expert witnesses; or

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3 (C) Arranging the provision of medical
4 expert testimony.

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6 **Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2003.

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(END)