

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1091

To impose certain requirements on health care liability claims.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 18, 1997

Mr. STUMP (for himself, Mr. CALLAHAN, and Mr. EVERETT) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To impose certain requirements on health care liability claims.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Health Care Liability Reform Act of 1997”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
7 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 101. Federal reform of medical injury compensation.

Sec. 102. Preemption of State law.

Sec. 103. Definitions.

Sec. 104. Effective date.

TITLE II—HEALTH CARE LIABILITY REFORM

Subtitle A—Reform Described

Sec. 201. Requirement for initial resolution of action through alternative dispute resolution.

Sec. 202. Statute of limitations.

Sec. 203. Attorneys' fees.

Sec. 204. Calculation and payment of damages.

Sec. 205. Joint and several liability

Sec. 206. Joint and several

Sec. 207. Permitting State professional societies to participate in disciplinary activities.

Subtitle B—Requirements for State Alternative Dispute Resolution Systems (ADR)

Sec. 211. Basic requirements.

Sec. 211. Basic requirements.

Sec. 212. Certification of State systems; applicability of alternative Federal system

Sec. 213. Reports on implementation and effectiveness of alternative dispute resolution systems.

1 TITLE I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

2 SEC. 101. FEDERAL REFORM OF MEDICAL INJURY COM-

3 PENSATION.

4 (a) CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.—

5 (1) EFFECT ON INTERSTATE COMMERCE.—The

6 Congress finds that the health care and insurance
7 industries are industries affecting interstate com-
8 merce and the medical malpractice litigation systems
9 existing throughout the United States affect inter-
10 state commerce by contributing to the high cost of
11 health care and premiums for malpractice insurance
12 purchased by health care providers.

13 (2) EFFECT ON FEDERAL SPENDING.—The

14 Congress finds that the medical malpractice litiga-
15 tion systems existing throughout the United States

1 have a significant effect on the amount, distribution,
2 and use of Federal funds because of—

3 (A) the large number of individuals who
4 receive health care benefits under programs op-
5 erated or financed by the Federal Government;

6 (B) the large number of individuals who
7 benefit because of the exclusion from Federal
8 taxes of the amounts spent by their employers
9 to provide them with health insurance benefits;

10 (C) the large number of health care provid-
11 ers and health care professionals who provide
12 items or services for which the Federal Govern-
13 ment makes payments; and

14 (D) the large number of such providers
15 and professionals who have received direct or
16 indirect financial assistance from the Federal
17 Government because of their status as such
18 professionals or providers.

19 (b) APPLICABILITY.—This Act shall apply with re-
20 spect to any health care liability claim and to any health
21 care liability action brought in any State or Federal court,
22 except that this Act shall not apply to—

23 (1) a claim or action for damages arising from
24 a vaccine-related injury or death to the extent that

1 title XXI of the Public Health Service Act applies to
2 the claim or action; or

3 (2) a claim or action in which the claimant's
4 sole allegation is an allegation of an injury arising
5 from the use of a medical product.

6 (c) **FEDERAL COURT JURISDICTION NOT ESTAB-**
7 **LISHED ON FEDERAL QUESTION GROUNDS.**—Nothing in
8 this Act shall be construed to establish any jurisdiction
9 in the district courts of the United States over health care
10 liability actions on the basis of section 1331 or 1337 of
11 title 28, United States Code.

12 **SEC. 102. PREEMPTION OF STATE LAW.**

13 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to the provisions con-
14 tained in subsection (b) of this section, the provisions gov-
15 erning health care liability actions set forth in this Act
16 supersede State law to the extent that State law differs
17 from any provisions of law established by or under this
18 Act with respect to the limitation contained in such provi-
19 sions. Any issue that is not governed by any provision of
20 law established herein will be governed by otherwise appli-
21 cable State or Federal law.

22 (b) **LIMITATIONS.**—The provisions of this Act will su-
23 persede any State law, with respect to both procedural and
24 substantive matters, only to the extent that State law per-
25 mits the recovery of a greater amount of damages by a

1 plaintiff than that authorized under section 204, permits
2 the awarding of a greater amount of attorneys' fees than
3 what is authorized under section 203, reduces the applica-
4 bility or scope of the regulation of periodic payment of
5 future damages authorized under section 204(b), or estab-
6 lishes a longer period during which a health care liability
7 claim may be initiated than that permitted under section
8 202. The provisions of this Act shall supersede any Fed-
9 eral or State law which mandates reimbursement from the
10 plaintiff's recovery for the cost of collateral source bene-
11 fits. The provisions of this Act shall not preempt any State
12 law that imposes greater restrictions on liability or dam-
13 ages than those provided herein.

14 (c) VACCINE INJURY.—

15 (1) To the extent that title XXI of the Public
16 Health Service Act establishes a Federal rule of law
17 applicable to a civil action brought for a vaccine-re-
18 lated injury or death—

19 (A) this Act does not affect the application
20 of the rule of law to such an action, and

21 (B) any rule of law prescribed by this Act
22 in conflict with a rule of law of such title XXI
23 shall not apply to such action.

24 (2) If there is an aspect of a civil action
25 brought for a vaccine-related injury or death to

1 which a Federal rule of law under title XXI of the
2 Public Health Service Act does not apply, then this
3 Act or otherwise applicable law (as determined
4 under this Act) will apply to such aspect of such
5 action.

6 (d) OTHER FEDERAL LAW.—Except as provided in
7 this section, nothing in this Act shall be deemed to effect
8 any defense available to a defendant in a health care liabil-
9 ity claim or action under any other provision of Federal
10 law.

11 **SEC. 103. DEFINITIONS.**

12 As used in this Act:

13 (1) ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION SYS-
14 TEM; ADR.—The term “alternative dispute resolution
15 system” or “ADR” means a system that provides
16 for the resolution of health care liability claims in a
17 manner other than through health care liability ac-
18 tions brought in the State or Federal courts.

19 (2) CLAIMANT.—The term “claimant” means
20 any person who asserts a health care liability claim
21 or bring a health care liability action, including a
22 person who asserts or claims a right to legal or equi-
23 table contribution, indemnity or subrogation, arising
24 out of a health care liability claim or action, and any
25 person on whose behalf such a claim is asserted or

1 such an action is brought, whether deceased, incom-
2 petent or a minor.

3 (3) DERIVATIVE CLAIM.—The term “derivative
4 claim” means any third-party claim arising from the
5 claim of injury of a person by a health care service
6 or product, such as loss of consortium, emotional
7 distress, injury to an unborn child, or wrongful
8 death.

9 (4) ECONOMIC DAMAGES.—The term “economic
10 damages” means objectively verifiable monetary
11 losses incurred as a result of the provision of (or
12 failure to provide) health care services or the use of
13 a medical product, such as past and future medical
14 expenses, loss of past and future earnings, cost of
15 obtaining domestic services, loss of employment, and
16 loss of business or employment opportunities.

17 (5) HEALTH CARE LIABILITY ACTION.—The
18 term “health care liability action” means a civil ac-
19 tion brought in a State or Federal court or pursuant
20 to ADR, against a health care provider, a health
21 care organization, or the manufacturer, distributor
22 or supplier of a medical product, regardless of the
23 theory of liability on which the claim is based, or the
24 number of plaintiffs, or defendants or causes of ac-

1 tion, in which the claimant alleges a health care li-
2 ability claim.

(6) HEALTH CARE LIABILITY CLAIM.—The term “health care liability claim” means a demand by any person, whether or not pursuant to ADR, against a health care provider, health care organization, or the manufacturer, distributor or supplier of a medical product, including, but not limited to, third-party claims, cross-claims, counter-claims or contribution claims, which are based upon the provision of (or the failure to provide) health care services or the use of a medical product, regardless of the theory of liability on which the claim is based, or the number of plaintiffs, defendants, or causes of action.

23 (8) HEALTH CARE PROVIDER.—The term
24 “health care provider” means any person or entity
25 required by State or Federal laws or regulations to

1 be licensed, registered, or certified to provide health
2 care services, and being either so licensed, reg-
3 istered, or certified, or exempted from such require-
4 ment by other statute or regulation.

5 (9) HEALTH CARE SERVICES.—The term
6 “health care services” means any service provided by
7 a health care provider, or by any individual working
8 under the supervision of a health care provider, that
9 relates to the diagnosis, prevention, or treatment of
10 any human disease or impairment, or the assessment
11 of the health of human beings.

12 (10) MEDICAL PRODUCT.—The term “medical
13 product” means a drug (as defined in section
14 201(g)(1) of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic
15 Act (21 U.S.C. 321(g)(1))) or a medical device as
16 defined in section 201(h) of the Federal Food, Drug
17 and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321(h)), including any
18 component or raw material used therein, but exclud-
19 ing health care services, as defined in paragraph (1)
20 of this section.

21 (11) NONECONOMIC DAMAGES.—The term
22 “noneconomic damages” means damages for phys-
23 ical and emotional pain, suffering, inconvenience,
24 physical impairment, mental anguish, disfigurement,
25 loss of enjoyment of life, loss of society and compan-

1 ionship, loss of consortium (other than loss of do-
2 mestic service), hedonic damages, injury to reputa-
3 tion and all other nonpecuniary losses of any kind
4 or nature.

20 SEC. 104. EFFECTIVE DATE.

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection
22 (b) and section 207, this Act shall apply with respect to
23 claims accruing or actions brought on or after the expira-
24 tion of the 3-year period that begins on the date of the
25 enactment of this Act.

1 (b) EXCEPTION FOR STATES REQUESTING EARLIER
2 IMPLEMENTATION OF REFORMS.—

3 (1) APPLICATION.—A State may submit an ap-
4 plication to the Secretary requesting the early imple-
5 mentation of this Act with respect to claims or ac-
6 tions brought in the State.

7 (2) DECISION BY SECRETARY.—The Secretary
8 shall issue a response to a State's application under
9 paragraph (1) not later than 90 days after receiving
10 the application. If the Secretary determines that the
11 State meets the requirements of this Act at the time
12 of submitting its application, the Secretary shall ap-
13 prove the State's application, and this Act shall
14 apply with respect to actions brought in the State on
15 or after the expiration of the 90-day period that be-
16 gins on the date the Secretary issues the response.
17 If the Secretary denies the State's application, the
18 Secretary shall provide the State with a written ex-
19 planation of the grounds for the decision.

TITLE II—HEALTH CARE**LIABILITY REFORM****Subtitle A—Reform Described****SEC. 201. REQUIREMENT FOR INITIAL RESOLUTION OF ACTION THROUGH ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION.****(a) IN GENERAL.—**

(1) STATE CASES.—A health care liability action may not be brought in any State court during a calendar year unless the health care liability claim that is the subject of the action has been initially resolved under an alternative dispute resolution system certified for the year by the Secretary under section 212(a), or, in the case of a State in which such a system is not in effect for the year, under the alternative Federal system established under section 212(b).

(2) FEDERAL DIVERSITY ACTIONS.—A health care liability action may not be brought in any Federal court under section 1332 of title 28, United States Code, during a calendar year unless the health care liability claim that is the subject of the action has been initially resolved under the alternative dispute resolution system referred to in para-

1 graph (1) that applied in the State whose law ap-
2 plies in such action.

3 (3) CLAIMS AGAINST UNITED STATES.—

4 (A) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROCESS FOR
5 CLAIMS.—The Attorney General shall establish
6 an alternative dispute resolution process for the
7 resolution of tort claims consisting of health
8 care liability claims brought against the United
9 States under chapter 171 of title 28, United
10 States Code. Under such process, the resolution
11 of a claim shall occur after the completion of
12 the administrative claim process applicable to
13 the claim under section 2675 of such title.

14 (B) REQUIREMENT FOR INITIAL RESOLU-
15 TION UNDER PROCESS.—A health care liability
16 action based on a health care liability claim de-
17 scribed in subparagraph (A) may not be
18 brought in any Federal court unless the claim
19 has been initially resolved under the alternative
20 dispute resolution process established by the At-
21 torney General under such subparagraph.

22 (b) INITIAL RESOLUTION OF CLAIMS UNDER
23 ADR.—For purposes of subsection (a), an action is “ini-
24 tially resolved” under an alternative dispute resolution
25 system if—

1 (1) the ADR reaches a decision on whether the
2 defendant is liable to the plaintiff for damages; and

6 (c) PROCEDURES FOR FILING ACTIONS.—

18 (A) the party has filed the notice of intent
19 required by paragraph (1); and

20 (B) the party files the action in a court of
21 competent jurisdiction not later than 90 days
22 after the decision resolving the health care li-
23 ability claim that is the subject of the action is
24 issued under the applicable alternative dispute
25 resolution system.

1 (3) COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION.—

2 For purposes of this subsection, the term “court of
3 competent jurisdiction” means—

6 (B) with respect to actions filed in a Fed-
7 eral court, the appropriate United States dis-
8 trict court.

9 (d) LEGAL EFFECT OF UNCONTESTED ADR DECI-
10 SION.—The decision reached under an alternative dispute
11 resolution system shall, for purposes of enforcement by a
12 court of competent jurisdiction, have the same status in
13 the court as the verdict of a health care liability action
14 adjudicated in a State or Federal trial court. The previous
15 sentence shall not apply to a decision that is contested
16 by a party affected by the decision pursuant to subsection
17 (c)(1).

18 SEC. 202. STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.

19 (a) GENERAL STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—No health
20 care liability claim or action may be commenced later than
21 one year after the plaintiff discovers, or through the use
22 of reasonable diligence should have discovered, the injury.

23 In no event shall a health care liability claim or action
24 be permitted to be filed later than 3 years after the date
25 of the injury. Such time limitation may be tolled upon

1 proof of the presence of a foreign object, exclusive of infec-
2 tious agents, which has no therapeutic or diagnostic pur-
3 pose or effect in the person of the injured plaintiff.

4 (b) MINORS UNDER THE AGE OF 6.—In the case of
5 an alleged injury sustained by a minor before the age of
6 6, no health care liability claim or action may be com-
7 menced by or on behalf of the minor later than (1) 3 years
8 from the date of injury or (2) the date on which the minor
9 attains the age of 8, whichever provides a longer period.
10 Such limitation may be tolled upon proof of the presence
11 of a foreign object, exclusive of infectious agents, which
12 has no therapeutic or diagnostic purpose or effect in the
13 person of the injured plaintiff.

14 **SEC. 203. ATTORNEYS' FEES.**

15 (a) LIMITATION ON CONTINGENCY FEES.—An attor-
16 ney shall not contract for or collect a contingency fee for
17 representing a claimant in a health care liability action
18 in excess of the following:

19 (1) 25 percent of the first \$100,000 (or portion
20 thereof) recovered by the claimant.

21 (2) 20 percent of the next \$150,000 (or portion
22 thereof) recovered by the claimant.

23 (3) 15 percent of the next \$250,000 (or portion
24 thereof) recovered by the claimant.

3 (b) REQUIRING PARTY CONTESTING ADR RULING
4 TO PAY ATTORNEY'S FEES AND OTHER COSTS.—

18 (A) in the case of an action in which the
19 party that contested the ruling is the claimant,
20 the amount of damages awarded to the party
21 under the action does not exceed the amount of
22 damages awarded to the party under the ADR
23 system by at least 10 percent; and

24 (B) in the case of an action in which the
25 party that contested the ruling is the defendant.

1 the amount of damages assessed against the
2 party under the action is not at least 10 per-
3 cent less than the amount of damages assessed
4 under the ADR system.

5 (2) EXCEPTIONS.—Paragraph (1) shall not
6 apply if—

7 (A) the party contesting the ruling made
8 under the previous alternative dispute resolu-
9 tion system shows that—

10 (i) the ruling was procured by corrup-
11 tion, fraud, or undue means,

12 (ii) there was partiality or corruption
13 under the system,

14 (iii) there was other misconduct under
15 the system that materially prejudiced the
16 party's rights, or

17 (iv) the ruling was based on an error
18 of law;

19 (B) the party contesting the ruling made
20 under the alternative dispute resolution system
21 presents new evidence before the trier of fact
22 that was not available for presentation under
23 the ADR system;

24 (C) the health care liability action raised a
25 novel issue of law; or

7 (3) REQUIREMENT FOR PERFORMANCE
8 BOND.—The court in a health care liability action
9 shall require the party that (pursuant to section
10 201(c)(1)) contested the ruling of the alternative
11 dispute resolution system with respect to the health
12 care liability claim that is the subject of the action
13 to post a performance bond (in such amount and
14 consisting of such funds and assets as the court de-
15 termines to be appropriate), except that the court
16 may waive the application of such requirement to a
17 party if the court determines that the posting of
18 such a bond is not necessary to ensure that the
19 party shall meet the requirements of this subsection
20 to pay the opposing party the costs incurred by the
21 opposing party under the action.

22 (4) LIMIT ON ATTORNEYS' FEES PAID.—Attor-
23 neys' fees that are required to be paid under para-
24 graph (1) by the contesting party shall not exceed
25 the amount of the attorneys' fees incurred by the

1 contesting party in the action. If the attorneys' fees
2 of the contesting party are based on a contingency
3 fee agreement, the amount of attorneys' fees for
4 purposes of the preceding sentence shall not exceed
5 the reasonable value of those services.

6 (5) RECORDS.—In order to receive attorneys'
7 fees under paragraph (1), counsel of record in the
8 health care liability action involved shall maintain
9 accurate, complete records of hours worked on the
10 action, regardless of the fee arrangement with the
11 client involved.

12 (c) CALCULATION OF PERIODIC PAYMENTS.—If peri-
13 odic payments are awarded to the claimant pursuant to
14 section 204(b), the court shall place a total value on these
15 payments based upon the projected life expectancy of the
16 claimant and include this amount in computing the total
17 award from which attorneys' fees are calculated under
18 subsection (a).

19 (d) EFFECT OF FAILURE TO COMPLY.—Failure to
20 comply with this section by an attorney at law shall be
21 grounds for professional discipline by the appropriate
22 State agency responsible for the conduct of disciplinary
23 actions against attorneys-at-law.

24 (e) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

13 SEC. 204. CALCULATION AND PAYMENT OF DAMAGES.

14 (a) LIMITATION ON NONECONOMIC DAMAGES.—The
15 total amount of noneconomic damages that may be award-
16 ed to a claimant for losses resulting from the injury which
17 is the subject of a health care liability action may not ex-
18 ceed \$250,000, regardless of the number of parties against
19 whom the action is brought or the number of actions
20 brought with respect to the injury.

21 (b) PERIODIC PAYMENTS FOR FUTURE LOSSES.—If
22 more than \$50,000 in damages for expenses to be incurred
23 in the future is awarded to the claimant in a health care
24 liability action, the court shall, at the request of either
25 party, enter a judgment ordering such damages to be paid

1 on a periodic basis determined appropriate by the court
2 (based upon projections of when such expenses are likely
3 to be incurred).

4 (c) MANDATORY OFFSETS FOR DAMAGES PAID BY A
5 COLLATERAL SOURCE.—The total amount of damages re-
6 ceived by a claimant in a health care liability action shall
7 be reduced by any other payment that has been or will
8 be made to the individual to compensate the claimant for
9 the injury that was the subject of the action, including
10 payment under—

- 11 (1) Federal or State disability or sickness pro-
12 grams;
- 13 (2) Federal, State, or private health insurance
14 programs;
- 15 (3) private disability insurance programs;
- 16 (4) employer wage continuation programs; and
- 17 (5) any other source of payment intended to
18 compensate the claimant for such injury.

19 (d) TREATMENT OF PUNITIVE DAMAGES.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Punitive damages may, if
21 otherwise permitted by applicable law, be awarded in
22 any civil actions subject to this Act only if it is prov-
23 en by clear and convincing evidence that the defend-
24 ant intended to injure the claimant for a reason un-
25 related to the provision of health care services, or

1 that the defendant understood the claimant was sub-
2 stantially certain to suffer unnecessary injury, yet
3 the defendant deliberately failed to avoid such in-
4 jury. Punitive damages may not be awarded against
5 a defendant, however, with respect to any claim
6 where no judgment for compensatory damages (in-
7 cluding nominal damages) is rendered against such
8 defendant.

16 (i) such medical product was subject
17 to premarket approval of review by the
18 Food and Drug Administration under sec-
19 tion 505, 506, 510, 515, or 520 of the
20 Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21
21 U.S.C. 355, 356, 360, 360e, or 360j) or
22 section 351 of the Public Health Service
23 Act (42 U.S.C. 262) with respect to the
24 safety of the formulation or performance of
25 the aspect of such medical product which

1 caused the claimant's harm or the ade-
2 quacy of the packaging or labeling of such
3 medical product, and, where required, such
4 medical product was marketed in conform-
5 ity with regulations of the Food and Drug
6 Administration; or

7 (ii) the medical product is generally
8 recognized as safe and effective pursuant
9 to conditions established by the Food and
10 Drug Administration and applicable regu-
11 lations, including without limitations those
12 related to packaging and labeling.

13 (B) EXCEPTIONS.—The provisions of sub-
14 paragraph (A) shall not apply in any case in
15 which—

16 (i) the defendant, before or after the
17 grant of permission to market such medi-
18 cal product, knowingly withheld from or
19 misrepresented to the Food and Drug Ad-
20 ministration required information that is
21 material and relevant to the performance
22 of such medical product and is causally re-
23 lated to the harm which the claimant alleg-
24 edly suffered; or

1 (ii) the defendant made an illegal pay-
2 ment to an official of the Food and Drug
3 Administration for the purpose of either
4 securing or maintaining approval of such
5 medical product.

(3) REQUIREMENTS FOR PLEADING OF PUNITIVE DAMAGES.—No demand for punitive damages shall be included in a claim or action for health care liability as initially filed. A court may allow a claimant to file an amended pleading for punitive damages only upon motion by a claimant and after a finding by a court upon review of supporting and opposing affidavits or after a hearing, that after weighing the evidence the claimant has established by a substantial probability that the claimant will prevail on the claim for punitive damages. The court shall not grant a motion allowing the filing of an amended pleading that includes a claim for punitive damages if the motion for such an order is not filed within 2 years after the complaint or initial pleading is filed or not less than 9 months before the date the matter is first set for trial, whichever is earlier.

23 (4) SEPARATE PROCEEDING.—At the request of
24 any defendant in a health care liability action, the
25 trier of fact shall consider in a separate proceeding

1 (1) whether punitive damages are to be awarded and
2 the amount of such award, or (2) the amount of pu-
3 nitive damages following a determination of punitive
4 liability. If a separate proceeding is requested, evi-
5 dence relevant only to the claim of punitive damages,
6 as determined by applicable State law, shall be ad-
7 missible in any proceeding to determine whether
8 compensatory damages are to be awarded.

11 (A) FACTORS CONSIDERED.—In determin-
12 ing the amount of punitive damages, the trier
13 of fact shall consider only—

14 (i) the severity of the harm caused by
15 the conduct of the defendant;

16 (ii) the duration of the conduct or any
17 concealment of it by the defendant;

20 (iv) the number of products sold or
21 displayed on a stand.

1 (v) awards of punitive or exemplary
2 damages to persons similarly situated to
3 the claimant;

4 (vi) prospective awards of compen-
5 satory damages to persons similarly situ-
6 ated to the claimant;

7 (vii) any criminal imposed on the de-
8 fendant as a result of the conduct com-
9 plained of by the claimant; and

10 (viii) the amount of any civil fines as-
11 sessed against the defendant as a result of
12 the conduct complained of by the claimant.

13 (B) GENERAL LIMITATION.—In no event
14 shall the amount of punitive damages awarded
15 exceed 2 times the amount of compensatory
16 damages awarded or \$250,000 whichever is
17 greater. The jury shall not be informed of this
18 limitation.

19 SEC. 205. JOINT AND SEVERAL LIABILITY.

20 A defendant may be held severally but not jointly lia-
21 ble in a health care liability action. A person found liable
22 for damages in any such action may be found liable, if
23 at all, only for those damages directly attributable to the
24 person's proportionate share of fault or responsibility for
25 the injury, and may not be found liable for damages at-

1 tributable to the proportionate share of fault or respon-
2 sibility of any other person (without regard to whether
3 that person is a party to the action) for the injury, includ-
4 ing any person bringing the action.

5 SEC. 206. INJUNCTIVE RELIEF.

6 Whenever any person has engaged or is about to en-
7 gage in any conduct in violation of this subtitle, the appro-
8 priate court may, upon application of an interested party,
9 issue an injunction or other appropriate order restraining
10 such conduct.

11 SEC. 207. PERMITTING STATE PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES
12 TO PARTICIPATE IN DISCIPLINARY ACTIVI-
13 TIES.

14 (a) ROLE OF PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES.—Notwith-
15 standing any other provision of State or Federal law, a
16 State agency responsible for the conduct of disciplinary
17 actions for a type of health care practitioner may enter
18 into agreements with State or county professional societies
19 of such type of health care practitioner to permit such so-
20 cieties to participate in the licensing of such health care
21 practitioner, and to review any health care malpractice ac-
22 tion, health care malpractice claim or allegation, or other
23 information concerning the practice patterns of any such
24 health care practitioner. Any such agreement shall comply
25 with subsection (b).

1 (b) REQUIREMENTS OF AGREEMENTS.—Any agree-
2 ment entered into under subsection (a) for licensing activi-
3 ties or the review of any health care malpractice action,
4 health care malpractice claim or allegation, or other infor-
5 mation concerning the practice patterns of a health care
6 practitioner shall provide that—

7 (1) the health care professional society conducts
8 such activities or review as expeditiously as possible;

9 (2) after the completion of such review, such so-
10 ciety shall report its findings to the State agency
11 with which it entered into such agreement;

12 (3) the conduct of such activities or review and
13 the reporting of such findings be conducted in a
14 manner which assures the preservation of confiden-
15 tiality of health care information and of the review
16 process; and

17 (4) no individual affiliated with such society is
18 liable for any damages or injury directly caused by
19 the individual's actions in conducting such activities
20 or review.

21 (c) AGREEMENTS NOT MANDATORY.—Nothing in
22 this section may be construed to require a State to enter
23 into agreements with societies described in subsection (a)
24 to conduct the activities described in such subsection.

1 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect
2 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

3 **Subtitle B—Requirements for State**
4 **Alternative Dispute Resolution**
5 **Systems (ADR)**

6 **SEC. 211. BASIC REQUIREMENTS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—A State's alternative dispute reso-
8 lution system meets the requirements of this section if the
9 system—

10 (1) applies to all health care liability claims
11 under the jurisdiction of the courts of that State;

12 (2) requires that a written opinion resolving the
13 dispute be issued not later than 6 months after the
14 date by which each party against whom the claim is
15 filed has received notice of the claim (other than in
16 exceptional cases for which a longer period is re-
17 quired for the issuance of such an opinion), and that
18 the opinion contain—

19 (A) findings of fact relating to the dispute,
20 and

21 (B) a description of the costs incurred in
22 resolving the dispute under the system (includ-
23 ing any fees paid to the individuals hearing and
24 resolving the claim), together with an appro-

7 (4) is approved by the State or by local govern-
8 ments in the State;

(5) with respect to a State system that consists of multiple dispute resolution procedures—

11 (A) permits the parties to a dispute to se-
12 lect the procedure to be used for the resolution
13 of the dispute under the system, and

14 (B) if the parties do not agree on the pro-
15 cedure to be used for the resolution of the dis-
16 pute, assigns a particular procedure to the
17 parties;

1 brings an action contesting the decision made under
2 the system; and

8 (b) APPLICATION OF MALPRACTICE LIABILITY

9 STANDARDS TO ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION.—

10 The provisions of subtitle A shall apply with respect to
11 claims brought under a State alternative dispute resolu-
12 tion system or the alternative Federal system in the same
13 manner as such provisions apply with respect to health
14 care liability actions brought in the State.

15 SEC. 212. CERTIFICATION OF STATE SYSTEMS; APPLICABIL-

16 **ITY OF ALTERNATIVE FEDERAL SYSTEM.**

17 (a) CERTIFICATION.—

24 (2) BASIS FOR CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary
25 shall certify a State's alternative dispute resolution

1 system under this subsection for a calendar year if
2 the Secretary determines under paragraph (1) that
3 the system meets the requirements of section 211.

4 (b) APPLICABILITY OF ALTERNATIVE FEDERAL SYS-
5 TEM.—

6 (1) ESTABLISHMENT AND APPLICABILITY.—
7 Not later than October 1, 1997, the Secretary, in
8 consultation with the Attorney General, shall estab-
9 lish by rule an alternative Federal ADR system for
10 the resolution of health care liability claims during
11 a calendar year in States that do not have in effect
12 an alternative dispute resolution system certified
13 under subsection (a) for the year.

14 (2) REQUIREMENTS FOR SYSTEM.—Under the
15 alternative Federal ADR system established under
16 paragraph (1)—

17 (A) paragraphs (1), (2), (6), and (7) of
18 section 211(a) shall apply to claims brought
19 under the system;

20 (B) if the system provides for the resolu-
21 tion of claims through arbitration, the claims
22 brought under the system shall be heard and
23 resolved by arbitrators appointed by the Sec-
24 retary in consultation with the Attorney Gen-
25 eral; and

1 SEC. 213. REPORTS ON IMPLEMENTATION AND EFFECTIVE-
2 NESS OF ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLU-
3 TION SYSTEMS.

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years after the
5 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall pre-
6 pare and submit to the Congress a report describing and
7 evaluating State alternative dispute resolution systems op-
8 erated pursuant to this part and the alternative Federal
9 system established under section 212(b).

10 (b) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—The Secretary shall in-
11 clude in the report prepared and submitted under sub-
12 section (a)—

13 (1) information on—

14 (A) the effect of the alternative dispute
15 resolution systems on the cost of health care
16 within each State.

17 (B) the impact of such systems on the ac-
18 cess of individuals to health care within the
19 State, and

20 (C) the effect of such systems on the qual-
21 ity of health care provided within the State; and

22 (2) to the extent that such report does not pro-
23 vide information on no-fault systems operated by
24 States as alternative dispute resolution systems pur-
25 suant to this part, an analysis of the feasibility and
26 desirability of establishing a system under which

1 health care liability claims shall be resolved on a no-
2 fault basis.

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