

HB0307

~~{Omitted text}~~ shows text that was in HB0307 but was omitted in HB0307S01

inserted text shows text that was not in HB0307 but was inserted into HB0307S01

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1 **Attorney Fees Amendments**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Anthony E. Loubet

Senate Sponsor:Brady Brammer

3 **LONG TITLE**

4 General Description:

5 This bill addresses attorney fees.

6 Highlighted Provisions:

7 This bill:

- 8 ▶ clarifies the meaning of "bad faith" throughout the Utah Code with regard to attorney fees;
9 ▶ amends the requirements for awarding reasonable attorney fees in a civil action; and
0 ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

1 Money Appropriated in this Bill:

2 None

3 Other Special Clauses:

4 None

15 Utah Code Sections Affected:

6 AMENDS:

18-1-4, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 158

8 **31A-22-305**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 261

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31A-22-305.3 , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 261

31A-22-321 , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 158

38-1a-308 , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 158

78B-5-825 , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 272

78B-10a-108 , as enacted by Laws of Utah 2011, Chapter 197

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **18-1-4** is amended to read:

18-1-4. Use of arbitration in personal injury from dog attack cases.

(1) A person injured as a result of a dog attack may elect to submit all third party bodily injury claims to arbitration by filing a notice of the submission of the claim to binding arbitration in a court if:

(a) the claimant or the claimant's representative has:

(i) previously and timely filed a complaint in a court that includes a third party bodily injury claim; and

(ii) filed a notice to submit the claim to arbitration within 14 days after the complaint has been answered; and

(b) the notice required under Subsection (1)(a)(ii) is filed while the action under Subsection (1)(a)(i) is still pending.

(2)

(a) If a party submits a bodily injury claim to arbitration under Subsection (1), the party submitting the claim or the party's representative is limited to an arbitration award that may not exceed \$50,000 in addition to any medical premise benefits and any claim for property damage.

(b) A party who elects to proceed against a defendant under this section:

(i) waives the right to obtain a judgment against the personal assets of the defendant; and

(ii) is limited to recovery only against available limits of insurance coverage.

(3) A claim for punitive damages may not be made in an arbitration proceeding under Subsection (1) or any subsequent proceeding, even if the claim is later resolved through a trial de novo under Subsection (11).

(4)

(a) A party who has elected arbitration under this section may rescind the party's election if the rescission is made within:

(i) 90 days after the election to arbitrate; and

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- 52 (ii) no less than 30 days before any scheduled arbitration hearing.
- 53 (b) A party seeking to rescind an election to arbitrate under this Subsection (4) shall:
- 54 (i) file a notice of the rescission of the election to arbitrate with the court in which the matter was filed;
and
- 56 (ii) send copies of the notice of the rescission of the election to arbitrate to all counsel of record to the
action.
- 58 (c) All discovery completed in anticipation of the arbitration hearing shall be available for use by the
parties as allowed by the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure and the Utah Rules of Evidence.
- 61 (d) A party who has elected to arbitrate under this section and then rescinded the election to arbitrate
under this Subsection (4) may not elect to arbitrate the claim under this section again.
- 64 (5)
- (a) Unless otherwise agreed to by the parties or by order of the court, an arbitration process elected
under this section is subject to Rule 26, Utah Rules of Civil Procedure.
- 67 (b) Unless otherwise agreed to by the parties or ordered by the court, discovery shall be completed
within 150 days after the date arbitration is elected under this section or the date the answer is filed,
whichever is longer.
- 70 (6)
- (a) Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the parties, a claim that is submitted to arbitration under
this section shall be resolved by a single arbitrator.
- 72 (b) Unless otherwise agreed to by the parties or ordered by the court, all parties shall agree on the single
arbitrator selected under Subsection (6)(a) within 90 days of the answer of the defendant.
- 75 (c) If the parties are unable to agree on a single arbitrator as required under Subsection (6)(b), the
parties shall select a panel of three arbitrators.
- 77 (d) If the parties select a panel of three arbitrators under Subsection (6)(c):
- 78 (i) each side shall select one arbitrator; and
- 79 (ii) the arbitrators selected under Subsection (6)(d)(i) shall select one additional arbitrator to be included
in the panel.
- 81 (7) Unless otherwise agreed to in writing:
- 82 (a) each party shall pay an equal share of the fees and costs of the arbitrator selected under Subsection
(6)(a); and
- 84 (b) if an arbitration panel is selected under Subsection (6)(d):

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- 85 (i) each party shall pay the fees and costs of the arbitrator selected by that party's side; and
87 (ii) each party shall pay an equal share of the fees and costs of the arbitrator selected under Subsection
(6)(d)(ii).
- 89 (8) Except as otherwise provided in this section and unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the parties,
an arbitration proceeding conducted under this section shall be governed by Title 78B, Chapter 11,
Utah Uniform Arbitration Act.
- 92 (9)
- (a) Subject to the provisions of this section, the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure and the Utah Rules of
Evidence apply to the arbitration proceeding.
- 94 (b) The Utah Rules of Civil Procedure and the Utah Rules of Evidence shall be applied liberally with
the intent of concluding the claim in a timely and cost-efficient manner.
- 96 (c) Discovery shall be conducted in accordance with the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure and shall be
subject to the jurisdiction of the court in which the matter is filed.
- 98 (d) Dispositive motions shall be filed, heard, and decided by the court prior to the arbitration proceeding
in accordance with the court's scheduling order.
- 100 (10) A written decision by a single arbitrator or by a majority of the arbitration panel shall constitute a
final decision.
- 102 (11) An arbitration award issued under this section shall be the final resolution of all bodily injury
claims between the parties and may be reduced to judgment by the court upon motion and notice
unless:
- 105 (a) either party, within 20 days after service of the arbitration award:
- 106 (i) files a notice requesting a trial de novo in the court; and
- 107 (ii) serves the nonmoving party with a copy of the notice requesting a trial de novo under Subsection
(11)(a)(i); or
- 109 (b) the arbitration award has been satisfied.
- 110 (12)
- (a) Upon filing a notice requesting a trial de novo under Subsection (11):
- 111 (i) unless otherwise stipulated to by the parties or ordered by the court, an additional 90 days shall
be allowed for further discovery;
- 113 (ii) the additional discovery time under Subsection (12)(a)(i) shall run from the notice of appeal;
and

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- 115 (iii) the claim shall proceed through litigation [~~pursuant to~~] in accordance with the Utah Rules of
Civil Procedure and the Utah Rules of Evidence in the court.
- 117 (b) In accordance with the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure, either party may request a jury trial with a
request for trial de novo filed under Subsection (11).
- 119 (13)
- (a) If the plaintiff, as the moving party in a trial de novo requested under Subsection (11), does not
obtain a verdict that is at least \$5,000 and is at least 30% greater than the arbitration award, the
plaintiff is responsible for all of the nonmoving party's costs.
- 123 (b) Except as provided in Subsection (13)(c), the costs under Subsection (13)(a) shall include:
- 125 (i) any costs set forth in Rule 54(d), Utah Rules of Civil Procedure; and
- 126 (ii) the costs of expert witnesses and depositions.
- 127 (c) An award of costs under this Subsection (13) may not exceed \$6,000.
- 128 (14)
- (a) If a defendant, as the moving party in a trial de novo requested under Subsection (11), does not
obtain a verdict that is at least 30% less than the arbitration award, the defendant is responsible for
all of the nonmoving party's costs.
- 131 (b) Except as provided in Subsection (14)(c), the costs under Subsection (14)(a) shall include:
- 133 (i) any costs set forth in Rule 54(d), Utah Rules of Civil Procedure; and
- 134 (ii) the costs of expert witnesses and depositions.
- 135 (c) An award of costs under this Subsection (14) may not exceed \$6,000.
- 136 (15) For purposes of determining whether a party's verdict is greater or less than the arbitration award
under Subsections (13) and (14), a court may not consider any recovery or other relief granted on a
claim for damages if the claim for damages was not disclosed in:
- 140 (a) writing prior to the arbitration proceeding; or
- 141 (b) response to discovery contrary to the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure.
- 142 [~~(16) If a court determines, upon a motion of the nonmoving party, that the moving party's use of the
trial de novo process was filed in bad faith, as described in Section 78B-5-825, the court may award
reasonable attorney fees to the nonmoving party.]~~
- 145 (16) Upon a motion of the nonmoving party, the court may award reasonable attorney fees to the
nonmoving party if the court determines that { } the moving party requested a trial de novo to harass,
cause unreasonable delay, needlessly increase the cost of litigation, or abuse the judicial process.

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- 149 ~~(17)~~ { ~~the moving party lacked an honest belief that the request for a trial de novo was proper;~~ }
- 149 { ~~(b)~~ } { ~~the moving party intended to take unconscionable advantage of another by requesting a trial de~~
~~novo; or~~ }
- 151 { ~~(c)~~ } { ~~the moving party intended to, or acted with, the knowledge that the request for a trial de novo~~
~~would hinder, delay, or defraud another.~~ }
- 153 { ~~(17)~~ } Nothing in this section is intended to affect or prevent any first party claim from later being
brought under any first party insurance policy under which the injured person is a covered person.
- 156 (18)
- (a) If a defendant requests a trial de novo under Subsection (11), the total verdict at trial may not exceed
\$15,000 above any available limits of insurance coverage and the total verdict may not exceed
\$65,000.
- 159 (b) If a plaintiff requests a trial de novo under Subsection (11), the verdict at trial may not exceed
\$50,000.
- 161 (19) All arbitration awards issued under this section shall bear postjudgment interest [~~pursuant to~~] in
accordance with Section 15-1-4.
- 159 Section 2. Section **31A-22-305** is amended to read:
- 160 **31A-22-305. Uninsured motorist coverage.**
- 165 (1) As used in this section, "covered persons" includes:
- 166 (a) the named insured;
- 167 (b) for a claim arising on or after May 13, 2014, the named insured's dependent minor children;
- 169 (c) persons related to the named insured by blood, marriage, adoption, or guardianship, who are
residents of the named insured's household, including those who usually make their home in the
same household but temporarily live elsewhere;
- 172 (d) any person occupying or using a motor vehicle:
- 173 (i) referred to in the policy; or
- 174 (ii) owned by a self-insured; and
- 175 (e) any person who is entitled to recover damages against the owner or operator of the uninsured or
underinsured motor vehicle because of bodily injury to or death of persons under Subsection (1)(a),
(b), (c), or (d).
- 178 (2) As used in this section, "uninsured motor vehicle" includes:
- 179 (a)

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(i) a motor vehicle, the operation, maintenance, or use of which is not covered under a liability policy at the time of an injury-causing occurrence; or

(ii)

(A) a motor vehicle covered with lower liability limits than required by Section 31A-22-304; and

(B) the motor vehicle described in Subsection (2)(a)(ii)(A) is uninsured to the extent of the deficiency;

(b) an unidentified motor vehicle that left the scene of an accident proximately caused by the motor vehicle operator;

(c) a motor vehicle covered by a liability policy, but coverage for an accident is disputed by the liability insurer for more than 60 days or continues to be disputed for more than 60 days; or

(d)

(i) an insured motor vehicle if, before or after the accident, the liability insurer of the motor vehicle is declared insolvent by a court of competent jurisdiction; and

(ii) the motor vehicle described in Subsection (2)(d)(i) is uninsured only to the extent that the claim against the insolvent insurer is not paid by a guaranty association or fund.

(3) Uninsured motorist coverage under Subsection 31A-22-302(1)(b) provides coverage for covered persons who are legally entitled to recover damages from owners or operators of uninsured motor vehicles because of bodily injury, sickness, disease, or death.

(4)

(a) For new policies written on or after January 1, 2001, the limits of uninsured motorist coverage shall be equal to the lesser of the limits of the named insured's motor vehicle liability coverage or the maximum uninsured motorist coverage limits available by the insurer under the named insured's motor vehicle policy, unless a named insured rejects or purchases coverage in a lesser amount by signing an acknowledgment form that:

(i) is filed with the department;

(ii) is provided by the insurer;

(iii) waives the higher coverage;

(iv) need only state in this or similar language that uninsured motorist coverage provides benefits or protection to you and other covered persons for bodily injury resulting from an accident caused by the fault of another party where the other party has no liability insurance; and

(v) discloses the additional premiums required to purchase uninsured motorist coverage with limits equal to the lesser of the limits of the named insured's motor vehicle liability coverage or the

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maximum uninsured motorist coverage limits available by the insurer under the named insured's motor vehicle policy.

- 215 (b) Any selection or rejection under this Subsection (4) continues for that issuer of the liability coverage
until the insured requests, in writing, a change of uninsured motorist coverage from that liability
insurer.
- 218 (c)
- (i) Subsections (4)(a) and (b) apply retroactively to any claim arising on or after January 1, 2001, for
which, as of May 14, 2013, an insured has not made a written demand for arbitration or filed a
complaint in a court of competent jurisdiction.
- 221 (ii) The Legislature finds that the retroactive application of Subsections (4)(a) and (b) clarifies the
application of law and does not enlarge, eliminate, or destroy vested rights.
- 224 (d) For purposes of this Subsection (4), "new policy" means:
- 225 (i) any policy that is issued which does not include a renewal or reinstatement of an existing policy; or
- 227 (ii) a change to an existing policy that results in:
- 228 (A) a named insured being added to or deleted from the policy; or
- 229 (B) a change in the limits of the named insured's motor vehicle liability coverage.
- 230 (e)
- (i) As used in this Subsection (4)(e), "additional motor vehicle" means a change that increases the total
number of vehicles insured by the policy, and does not include replacement, substitute, or temporary
vehicles.
- 233 (ii) The adding of an additional motor vehicle to an existing personal lines or commercial lines policy
does not constitute a new policy for purposes of Subsection (4)(d).
- 236 (iii) If an additional motor vehicle is added to a personal lines policy where uninsured motorist
coverage has been rejected, or where uninsured motorist limits are lower than the named insured's
motor vehicle liability limits, the insurer shall provide a notice to a named insured within 30 days
that:
- 240 (A) in the same manner as described in Subsection (4)(a)(iv), explains the purpose of uninsured
motorist coverage; and
- 242 (B) encourages the named insured to contact the insurance company or insurance producer for quotes
as to the additional premiums required to purchase uninsured motorist coverage with limits equal
to the lesser of the limits of the named insured's motor vehicle liability coverage or the maximum

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uninsured motorist coverage limits available by the insurer under the named insured's motor vehicle policy.

- 248 (f) A change in policy number resulting from any policy change not identified under Subsection (4)(d)
(ii) does not constitute a new policy.
- 250 (g)
- (i) Subsection (4)(d) applies retroactively to any claim arising on or after January 1, 2001, for which, as
of May 1, 2012, an insured has not made a written demand for arbitration or filed a complaint in a
court of competent jurisdiction.
- 253 (ii) The Legislature finds that the retroactive application of this Subsection (4):
- 254 (A) does not enlarge, eliminate, or destroy vested rights; and
- 255 (B) clarifies the application of law.
- 256 (h) A self-insured, including a governmental entity, may elect to provide uninsured motorist coverage
in an amount that is less than its maximum self-insured retention under Subsections (4)(a) and (5)(a)
by issuing a declaratory memorandum or policy statement from the chief financial officer or chief
risk officer that declares the:
- 260 (i) self-insured entity's coverage level; and
- 261 (ii) process for filing an uninsured motorist claim.
- 262 (i) Uninsured motorist coverage may not be sold with limits that are less than the minimum bodily
injury limits for motor vehicle liability policies under Section 31A-22-304.
- 265 (j) The acknowledgment under Subsection (4)(a) continues for that issuer of the uninsured motorist
coverage until the named insured requests, in writing, different uninsured motorist coverage from
the insurer.
- 268 (k)
- (i) In conjunction with the first two renewal notices sent after January 1, 2001, for policies existing
on that date, the insurer shall disclose in the same medium as the premium renewal notice, an
explanation of:
- 271 (A) the purpose of uninsured motorist coverage in the same manner as described in Subsection (4)
(a)(iv); and
- 273 (B) a disclosure of the additional premiums required to purchase uninsured motorist coverage with
limits equal to the lesser of the limits of the named insured's motor vehicle liability coverage

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or the maximum uninsured motorist coverage limits available by the insurer under the named insured's motor vehicle policy.

- 278 (ii) The disclosure required under Subsection (4)(k)(i) shall be sent to all named insureds that carry
uninsured motorist coverage limits in an amount less than the named insured's motor vehicle
liability policy limits or the maximum uninsured motorist coverage limits available by the insurer
under the named insured's motor vehicle policy.
- 283 (l) For purposes of this Subsection (4), a notice or disclosure sent to a named insured in a household
constitutes notice or disclosure to all insureds within the household.
- 285 (5)
- (a)
- (i) Except as provided in Subsection (5)(b), the named insured may reject uninsured motorist
coverage by an express writing to the insurer that provides liability coverage under Subsection
31A-22-302(1)(a).
- 288 (ii) This rejection shall be on a form provided by the insurer that includes a reasonable explanation
of the purpose of uninsured motorist coverage.
- 290 (iii) This rejection continues for that issuer of the liability coverage until the insured in writing
requests uninsured motorist coverage from that liability insurer.
- 292 (b)
- (i) All persons, including governmental entities, that are engaged in the business of, or that accept
payment for, transporting natural persons by motor vehicle, and all school districts that provide
transportation services for their students, shall provide coverage for all motor vehicles used for that
purpose, by purchase of a policy of insurance or by self-insurance, uninsured motorist coverage of at
least \$25,000 per person and \$500,000 per accident.
- 298 (ii) This coverage is secondary to any other insurance covering an injured covered person.
- 300 (c) Uninsured motorist coverage:
- 301 (i) in order to avoid double recovery, does not cover any benefit under Title 34A, Chapter 2, Workers'
Compensation Act, or Title 34A, Chapter 3, Utah Occupational Disease Act, provided by the
workers' compensation insurance carrier, uninsured employer, the Uninsured Employers' Fund
created in Section 34A-2-704, or the Employers' Reinsurance Fund created in Section 34A-2-702,
except that:
- 307 (A) the covered person is credited an amount described in Subsection 34A-2-106(5); and

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- 309 (B) the benefits described in this Subsection (5)(c)(i) do not need to be paid before an uninsured
motorist claim may be pursued and resolved;
- 311 (ii) may not be subrogated by the workers' compensation insurance carrier, uninsured employer, the
Uninsured Employers' Fund created in Section 34A-2-704, or the Employers' Reinsurance Fund
created in Section 34A-2-702;
- 314 (iii) may not be reduced by any benefits provided by the workers' compensation insurance carrier,
uninsured employer, the Uninsured Employers' Fund created in Section 34A-2-704, or the
Employers' Reinsurance Fund created in Section 34A-2-702;
- 318 (iv) notwithstanding Subsection 31A-1-103(3)(f), may be reduced by health insurance subrogation only
after the covered person has been made whole;
- 320 (v) may not be collected for bodily injury or death sustained by a person:
- 321 (A) while committing a violation of Section 41-1a-1314;
- 322 (B) who, as a passenger in a vehicle, has knowledge that the vehicle is being operated in violation of
Section 41-1a-1314; or
- 324 (C) while committing a felony; and
- 325 (vi) notwithstanding Subsection (5)(c)(v), may be recovered:
- 326 (A) for a person under 18 years old who is injured within the scope of Subsection (5)(c)(v) but limited
to medical and funeral expenses; or
- 328 (B) by a law enforcement officer as defined in Section 53-13-103, who is injured within the course and
scope of the law enforcement officer's duties.
- 330 (d) As used in this Subsection (5), "motor vehicle" means the same as that term is defined in Section
41-1a-102.
- 332 (6) When a covered person alleges that an uninsured motor vehicle under Subsection (2)(b) proximately
caused an accident without touching the covered person or the motor vehicle occupied by the
covered person, the covered person shall show the existence of the uninsured motor vehicle by clear
and convincing evidence consisting of more than the covered person's testimony.
- 337 (7)
- (a) The limit of liability for uninsured motorist coverage for two or more motor vehicles may not be
added together, combined, or stacked to determine the limit of insurance coverage available to an
injured person for any one accident.
- 340 (b)

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- (i) Subsection (7)(a) applies to all persons except a covered person as defined under Subsection (8)(b).
- 342 (ii) A covered person as defined under Subsection (8)(b)(ii) is entitled to the highest limits of uninsured
motorist coverage afforded for any one motor vehicle that the covered person is the named insured
or an insured family member.
- 345 (iii) This coverage shall be in addition to the coverage on the motor vehicle the covered person is
occupying.
- 347 (iv) Neither the primary nor the secondary coverage may be set off against the other.
- 348 (c) Coverage on a motor vehicle occupied at the time of an accident shall be primary coverage, and
the coverage elected by a person described under Subsections (1)(a) through (c) shall be secondary
coverage.
- 351 (8)
- (a) Uninsured motorist coverage under this section applies to bodily injury, sickness, disease, or
death of covered persons while occupying or using a motor vehicle only if the motor vehicle is
described in the policy under which a claim is made, or if the motor vehicle is a newly acquired or
replacement motor vehicle covered under the terms of the policy. Except as provided in Subsection
(7) or this Subsection (8), a covered person injured in a motor vehicle described in a policy that
includes uninsured motorist benefits may not elect to collect uninsured motorist coverage benefits
from any other motor vehicle insurance policy under which the person is a covered person.
- 360 (b) Each of the following persons may also recover uninsured motorist benefits under any one other
policy in which they are described as a "covered person" as defined in Subsection (1):
- 363 (i) a covered person injured as a pedestrian by an uninsured motor vehicle; and
- 364 (ii) except as provided in Subsection (8)(c), a covered person injured while occupying or using a motor
vehicle that is not owned, leased, or furnished:
- 366 (A) to the covered person;
- 367 (B) to the covered person's spouse; or
- 368 (C) to the covered person's resident parent or resident sibling.
- 369 (c)
- (i) A covered person may recover benefits from no more than two additional policies, one additional
policy from each parent's household if the covered person is:
- 372 (A) a dependent minor of parents who reside in separate households; and
- 373 (B) injured while occupying or using a motor vehicle that is not owned, leased, or furnished:

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- 375 (I) to the covered person;
- 376 (II) to the covered person's resident parent; or
- 377 (III) to the covered person's resident sibling.
- 378 (ii) Each parent's policy under this Subsection (8)(c) is liable only for the percentage of the damages
that the limit of liability of each parent's policy of uninsured motorist coverage bears to the total of
both parents' uninsured coverage applicable to the accident.
- 382 (d) A covered person's recovery under any available policies may not exceed the full amount of
damages.
- 384 (e) A covered person in Subsection (8)(b) is not barred against making subsequent elections if recovery
is unavailable under previous elections.
- 386 (f)
- (i) As used in this section, "interpolicy stacking" means recovering benefits for a single incident of loss
under more than one insurance policy.
- 388 (ii) Except to the extent permitted by Subsection (7) and this Subsection (8), interpolicy stacking is
prohibited for uninsured motorist coverage.
- 390 (9)
- (a) When a claim is brought by a named insured or a person described in Subsection (1) and is asserted
against the covered person's uninsured motorist carrier, the claimant may elect to resolve the claim:
- 393 (i) by submitting the claim to binding arbitration; or
- 394 (ii) through litigation.
- 395 (b) Unless otherwise provided in the policy under which uninsured benefits are claimed, the election
provided in Subsection (9)(a) is available to the claimant only, except that if the policy under which
insured benefits are claimed provides that either an insured or the insurer may elect arbitration, the
insured or the insurer may elect arbitration and that election to arbitrate shall stay the litigation of
the claim under Subsection (9)(a)(ii).
- 401 (c) Once the claimant has elected to commence litigation under Subsection (9)(a)(ii), the claimant may
not elect to resolve the claim through binding arbitration under this section without the written
consent of the uninsured motorist carrier.
- 404 (d) For purposes of the statute of limitations applicable to a claim described in Subsection (9)(a), if the
claimant does not elect to resolve the claim through litigation, the claim is considered filed when the
claimant submits the claim to binding arbitration in accordance with this Subsection (9).

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- 408 (e)
- (i) Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the parties, a claim that is submitted to binding arbitration under Subsection (9)(a)(i) shall be resolved by a single arbitrator.
- 411 (ii) All parties shall agree on the single arbitrator selected under Subsection (9)(e)(i).
- 412 (iii) If the parties are unable to agree on a single arbitrator as required under Subsection (9)(e)(ii), the parties shall select a panel of three arbitrators.
- 414 (f) If the parties select a panel of three arbitrators under Subsection (9)(e)(iii):
- 415 (i) each side shall select one arbitrator; and
- 416 (ii) the arbitrators appointed under Subsection (9)(f)(i) shall select one additional arbitrator to be included in the panel.
- 418 (g) Unless otherwise agreed to in writing:
- 419 (i) each party shall pay an equal share of the fees and costs of the arbitrator selected under Subsection (9)(e)(i); or
- 421 (ii) if an arbitration panel is selected under Subsection (9)(e)(iii):
- 422 (A) each party shall pay the fees and costs of the arbitrator selected by that party; and
- 424 (B) each party shall pay an equal share of the fees and costs of the arbitrator selected under Subsection (9)(f)(ii).
- 426 (h) Except as otherwise provided in this section or unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the parties, an arbitration proceeding conducted under this section shall be governed by Title 78B, Chapter 11, Utah Uniform Arbitration Act.
- 429 (i)
- (i) The arbitration shall be conducted in accordance with Rules 26(a)(4) through (f), 27 through 37, 54, and 68 of the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure, once the requirements of Subsections (10)(a) through (c) are satisfied.
- 432 (ii) The specified tier as defined by Rule 26(c)(3) of the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure shall be determined based on the claimant's specific monetary amount in the written demand for payment of uninsured motorist coverage benefits as required in Subsection (10)(a)(i)(A).
- 436 (iii) Rules 26.1 and 26.2 of the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure do not apply to arbitration claims under this part.
- 438 (j) All issues of discovery shall be resolved by the arbitrator or the arbitration panel.
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(k) A written decision by a single arbitrator or by a majority of the arbitration panel shall constitute a final decision.

(l)

(i) Except as provided in Subsection (10), the amount of an arbitration award may not exceed the uninsured motorist policy limits of all applicable uninsured motorist policies, including applicable uninsured motorist umbrella policies.

(ii) If the initial arbitration award exceeds the uninsured motorist policy limits of all applicable uninsured motorist policies, the arbitration award shall be reduced to an amount equal to the combined uninsured motorist policy limits of all applicable uninsured motorist policies.

(m) The arbitrator or arbitration panel may not decide the issues of coverage or extra-contractual damages, including:

(i) whether the claimant is a covered person;

(ii) whether the policy extends coverage to the loss; or

(iii) any allegations or claims asserting consequential damages or bad faith liability.

(n) The arbitrator or arbitration panel may not conduct arbitration on a class-wide or class-representative basis.

(o) If the arbitrator or arbitration panel finds that the action was not brought, pursued, or defended in good faith, the arbitrator or arbitration panel may award reasonable attorney fees and costs against the party that failed to bring, pursue, or defend the claim in good faith.

(p) An arbitration award issued under this section shall be the final resolution of all claims not excluded by Subsection (9)(m) between the parties unless:

(i) the award was procured by corruption, fraud, or other undue means; and

(ii) within 20 days after service of the arbitration award, a party:

(A) files a complaint requesting a trial de novo in a court with jurisdiction under Title 78A, Judiciary and Judicial Administration; and

(B) serves the nonmoving party with a copy of the complaint requesting a trial de novo under Subsection (9)(p)(ii)(A).

(q)

(i) Upon filing a complaint for a trial de novo under Subsection (9)(p), the claim shall proceed through litigation in accordance with the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure and Utah Rules of Evidence.

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(ii) In accordance with Rule 38, Utah Rules of Civil Procedure, a party may request a jury trial with a complaint requesting a trial de novo under Subsection (9)(p)(ii)(A).

(r)

(i) If the claimant, as the moving party in a trial de novo requested under Subsection (9)(p), does not obtain a verdict that is at least \$5,000 and is at least 20% greater than the arbitration award, the claimant is responsible for all of the nonmoving party's costs.

(ii) If the uninsured motorist carrier, as the moving party in a trial de novo requested under Subsection (9)(p), does not obtain a verdict that is at least 20% less than the arbitration award, the uninsured motorist carrier is responsible for all of the nonmoving party's costs.

(iii) Except as provided in Subsection (9)(r)(iv), the costs under this Subsection (9)(r) shall include:

(A) any costs set forth in Rule 54(d), Utah Rules of Civil Procedure; and

(B) the costs of expert witnesses and depositions.

(iv) An award of costs under this Subsection (9)(r) may not exceed \$2,500 unless Subsection (10)(h)(iii) applies.

(s) For purposes of determining whether a party's verdict is greater or less than the arbitration award under Subsection (9)(r), a court may not consider any recovery or other relief granted on a claim for damages if the claim for damages:

(i) was not fully disclosed in writing prior to the arbitration proceeding; or

(ii) was not disclosed in response to discovery contrary to the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure.

~~[(t) If a court determines, upon a motion of the nonmoving party, that the moving party's use of the trial de novo process was filed in bad faith in accordance with Section 78B-5-825, the court may award reasonable attorney fees to the nonmoving party.]~~

~~(t) Upon a motion of the nonmoving party, the court may award reasonable attorney fees to the nonmoving party if the court determines that{:} the moving party requested a trial de novo to harass, cause unreasonable delay, needlessly increase the cost of litigation, or abuse the judicial process.~~

~~(u) {the moving party lacked an honest belief that the request for a trial de novo was proper;}~~

~~{(ii)} {the moving party intended to take unconscionable advantage of another by requesting a trial de novo; or}~~

~~{(iii)} {the moving party intended to, or acted with, the knowledge that the request for a trial de novo would hinder, delay, or defraud another.}~~

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{(+) } Nothing in this section is intended to limit any claim under any other portion of an applicable insurance policy.

505 (v) If there are multiple uninsured motorist policies, as set forth in Subsection (8), the claimant may
elect to arbitrate in one hearing the claims against all the uninsured motorist carriers.

508 (10)

(a) Within 30 days after a covered person elects to submit a claim for uninsured motorist benefits to binding arbitration or files litigation, the covered person shall provide to the uninsured motorist carrier:

511 (i) a written demand for payment of uninsured motorist coverage benefits, setting forth:

513 (A) subject to Subsection (10)(I), the specific monetary amount of the demand, including a computation of the covered person's claimed past medical expenses, claimed past lost wages, and the other claimed past economic damages; and

517 (B) the factual and legal basis and any supporting documentation for the demand;

518 (ii) a written statement under oath disclosing:

519 (A)

(I) the names and last known addresses of all health care providers who have rendered health care services to the covered person that are material to the claims for which uninsured motorist benefits are sought for a period of five years preceding the date of the event giving rise to the claim for uninsured motorist benefits up to the time the election for arbitration or litigation has been exercised; and

525 (II) the names and last known addresses of the health care providers who have rendered health care services to the covered person, which the covered person claims are immaterial to the claims for which uninsured motorist benefits are sought, for a period of five years preceding the date of the event giving rise to the claim for uninsured motorist benefits up to the time the election for arbitration or litigation has been exercised that have not been disclosed under Subsection (10)(a)(ii)
(A)(I);

532 (B)

(I) the names and last known addresses of all health insurers or other entities to whom the covered person has submitted claims for health care services or benefits material to the claims for which uninsured motorist benefits are sought, for a period of five years preceding the date of the event

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giving rise to the claim for uninsured motorist benefits up to the time the election for arbitration or litigation has been exercised; and

- 538 (II) the names and last known addresses of the health insurers or other entities to whom the covered person has submitted claims for health care services or benefits, which the covered person claims are immaterial to the claims for which uninsured motorist benefits are sought, for a period of five years preceding the date of the event giving rise to the claim for uninsured motorist benefits up to the time the election for arbitration or litigation have not been disclosed;
- 545 (C) if lost wages, diminished earning capacity, or similar damages are claimed, all employers of the covered person for a period of five years preceding the date of the event giving rise to the claim for uninsured motorist benefits up to the time the election for arbitration or litigation has been exercised;
- 549 (D) other documents to reasonably support the claims being asserted; and
- 550 (E) all state and federal statutory lienholders including a statement as to whether the covered person is a recipient of Medicare or Medicaid benefits or Utah Children's Health Insurance Program benefits under Title 26B, Chapter 3, Part 9, Utah Children's Health Insurance Program, or if the claim is subject to any other state or federal statutory liens; and
- 555 (iii) signed authorizations to allow the uninsured motorist carrier to only obtain records and billings from the individuals or entities disclosed under Subsections (10)(a)(ii)(A)(I), (B)(I), and (C).
- 558 (b)
- (i) If the uninsured motorist carrier determines that the disclosure of undisclosed health care providers or health care insurers under Subsection (10)(a)(ii) is reasonably necessary, the uninsured motorist carrier may:
- 561 (A) make a request for the disclosure of the identity of the health care providers or health care insurers; and
- 563 (B) make a request for authorizations to allow the uninsured motorist carrier to only obtain records and billings from the individuals or entities not disclosed.
- 565 (ii) If the covered person does not provide the requested information within 10 days:
- 566 (A) the covered person shall disclose, in writing, the legal or factual basis for the failure to disclose the health care providers or health care insurers; and
- 568

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(B) either the covered person or the uninsured motorist carrier may request the arbitrator or arbitration panel to resolve the issue of whether the identities or records are to be provided if the covered person has elected arbitration.

571 (iii) The time periods imposed by Subsection (10)(c)(i) are tolled pending resolution of the dispute
concerning the disclosure and production of records of the health care providers or health care
insurers.

574 (c)

(i) An uninsured motorist carrier that receives an election for arbitration or a notice of filing litigation and the demand for payment of uninsured motorist benefits under Subsection (10)(a)(i) shall have a reasonable time, not to exceed 60 days from the date of the demand and receipt of the items specified in Subsections (10)(a)(i) through (iii), to:

579 (A) provide a written response to the written demand for payment provided for in Subsection (10)
(a)(i);

581 (B) except as provided in Subsection (10)(c)(i)(C), tender the amount, if any, of the uninsured
motorist carrier's determination of the amount owed to the covered person; and

584 (C) if the covered person is a recipient of Medicare or Medicaid benefits or Utah Children's
Health Insurance Program benefits under Title 26B, Chapter 3, Part 9, Utah Children's Health
Insurance Program, or if the claim is subject to any other state or federal statutory liens, tender
the amount, if any, of the uninsured motorist carrier's determination of the amount owed to the
covered person less:

589 (I) if the amount of the state or federal statutory lien is established, the amount of the lien; or

591 (II) if the amount of the state or federal statutory lien is not established, two times the amount of the
medical expenses subject to the state or federal statutory lien until such time as the amount of the
state or federal statutory lien is established.

595 (ii) If the amount tendered by the uninsured motorist carrier under Subsection (10)(c)(i) is the total
amount of the uninsured motorist policy limits, the tendered amount shall be accepted by the
covered person.

598 (d) A covered person who receives a written response from an uninsured motorist carrier as provided
for in Subsection (10)(c)(i), may:

600 (i) elect to accept the amount tendered in Subsection (10)(c)(i) as payment in full of all uninsured
motorist claims; or

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- 602 (ii) elect to:
- 603 (A) accept the amount tendered in Subsection (10)(c)(i) as partial payment of all uninsured motorist
claims; and
- 605 (B) continue to litigate or arbitrate the remaining claim in accordance with the election made under
Subsections (9)(a) through (c).
- 607 (e) If a covered person elects to accept the amount tendered under Subsection (10)(c)(i) as partial
payment of all uninsured motorist claims, the final award obtained through arbitration, litigation,
or later settlement shall be reduced by any payment made by the uninsured motorist carrier under
Subsection (10)(c)(i).
- 611 (f) In an arbitration proceeding on the remaining uninsured claims:
- 612 (i) the parties may not disclose to the arbitrator or arbitration panel the amount paid under Subsection
(10)(c)(i) until after the arbitration award has been rendered; and
- 614 (ii) the parties may not disclose the amount of the limits of uninsured motorist benefits provided by the
policy.
- 616 (g) If the final award obtained through arbitration or litigation is greater than the average of the covered
person's initial written demand for payment provided for in Subsection (10)(a)(i) and the uninsured
motorist carrier's initial written response provided for in Subsection (10)(c)(i), the uninsured
motorist carrier shall pay:
- 620 (i) the final award obtained through arbitration or litigation, except that if the award exceeds the policy
limits of the subject uninsured motorist policy by more than \$15,000, the amount shall be reduced to
an amount equal to the policy limits plus \$15,000; and
- 624 (ii) any of the following applicable costs:
- 625 (A) any costs as set forth in Rule 54(d), Utah Rules of Civil Procedure;
- 626 (B) the arbitrator or arbitration panel's fee; and
- 627 (C) the reasonable costs of expert witnesses and depositions used in the presentation of evidence during
arbitration or litigation.
- 629 (h)
- (i) The covered person shall provide an affidavit of costs within five days of an arbitration award.
- 631 (ii)
- (A) Objection to the affidavit of costs shall specify with particularity the costs to which the uninsured
motorist carrier objects.

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- 633 (B) The objection shall be resolved by the arbitrator or arbitration panel.
- 634 (iii) The award of costs by the arbitrator or arbitration panel under Subsection (10)(g)(ii) may not
exceed \$5,000.
- 636 (i)
- (i) A covered person shall disclose all material information, other than rebuttal evidence, within 30 days
after a covered person elects to submit a claim for uninsured motorist coverage benefits to binding
arbitration or files litigation as specified in Subsection (10)(a).
- 640 (ii) If the information under Subsection (10)(i)(i) is not disclosed, the covered person may not recover
costs or any amounts in excess of the policy under Subsection (10)(g).
- 643 (j) This Subsection (10) does not limit any other cause of action that arose or may arise against the
uninsured motorist carrier from the same dispute.
- 645 (k) The provisions of this Subsection (10) only apply to motor vehicle accidents that occur on or after
March 30, 2010.
- 647 (l)
- (i)
- (A) The written demand requirement in Subsection (10)(a)(i)(A) does not affect the covered
person's requirement to provide a computation of any other economic damages claimed, and
the one or more respondents shall have a reasonable time after the receipt of the computation of
any other economic damages claimed to conduct fact and expert discovery as to any additional
damages claimed.
- 653 (B) The changes made by Laws of Utah 2014, Chapter 290, Section 10, and[-] [
- 646]Chapter 300, Section 10, to this Subsection (10)(l) and Subsection (10)(a)(i)(A) apply to a
claim submitted to binding arbitration or through litigation on or after May 13, 2014.
- 657 (ii) The changes made by Laws of Utah 2014, Chapter 290, Section 10, and Chapter[-] [
- 650]300, Section 10, to Subsections (10)(a)(ii)(A)(II) and (B)(II) apply to any claim submitted to
binding arbitration or through litigation on or after May 13, 2014.
- 661 (11)
- (a) A person shall commence an action on a written policy or contract for uninsured motorist coverage
within four years after the inception of loss.
- 663 (b) Subsection (11)(a) shall apply to all claims that have not been time barred by Subsection
31A-21-313(1)(a) as of May 14, 2019.

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Section 3. Section **31A-22-305.3** is amended to read:

31A-22-305.3. Underinsured motorist coverage.

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "Covered person" means the same as that term is defined in Section 31A-22-305.

(b)

(i) "Underinsured motor vehicle" includes a motor vehicle, the operation, maintenance, or use of which is covered under a liability policy at the time of an injury-causing occurrence, but which has insufficient liability coverage to compensate fully the injured party for all special and general damages.

(ii) The term "underinsured motor vehicle" does not include:

(A) a motor vehicle that is covered under the liability coverage of the same policy that also contains the underinsured motorist coverage;

(B) an uninsured motor vehicle as defined in Subsection 31A-22-305(2); or

(C) a motor vehicle owned or leased by:

(I) a named insured;

(II) a named insured's spouse; or

(III) a dependent of a named insured.

(2)

(a) Underinsured motorist coverage under Subsection 31A-22-302(1)(c) provides coverage for a covered person who is legally entitled to recover damages from an owner or operator of an underinsured motor vehicle because of bodily injury, sickness, disease, or death.

(b) A covered person occupying or using a motor vehicle owned, leased, or furnished to the covered person, the covered person's spouse, or covered person's resident relative may recover underinsured benefits only if the motor vehicle is:

(i) described in the policy under which a claim is made; or

(ii) a newly acquired or replacement motor vehicle covered under the terms of the policy.

(3)

(a) For purposes of this Subsection (3), "new policy" means:

(i) any policy that is issued that does not include a renewal or reinstatement of an existing policy; or

(ii) a change to an existing policy that results in:

(A) a named insured being added to or deleted from the policy; or

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- 696 (B) a change in the limits of the named insured's motor vehicle liability coverage.
- 697 (b) For new policies written on or after January 1, 2001, the limits of underinsured motorist coverage shall be equal to the lesser of the limits of the named insured's motor vehicle liability coverage or the maximum underinsured motorist coverage limits available by the insurer under the named insured's motor vehicle policy, unless a named insured rejects or purchases coverage in a lesser amount by signing an acknowledgment form that:
- 703 (i) is filed with the department;
- 704 (ii) is provided by the insurer;
- 705 (iii) waives the higher coverage;
- 706 (iv) need only state in this or similar language that "underinsured motorist coverage provides benefits or protection to you and other covered persons for bodily injury resulting from an accident caused by the fault of another party where the other party has insufficient liability insurance"; and
- 710 (v) discloses the additional premiums required to purchase underinsured motorist coverage with limits equal to the lesser of the limits of the named insured's motor vehicle liability coverage or the maximum underinsured motorist coverage limits available by the insurer under the named insured's motor vehicle policy.
- 714 (c) Any selection or rejection under Subsection (3)(b) continues for that issuer of the liability coverage until the insured requests, in writing, a change of underinsured motorist coverage from that liability insurer.
- 717 (d)
- (i) Subsections (3)(b) and (c) apply retroactively to any claim arising on or after January 1, 2001, for which, as of May 14, 2013, an insured has not made a written demand for arbitration or filed a complaint in a court of competent jurisdiction.
- 720 (ii) The Legislature finds that the retroactive application of Subsections (3)(b) and (c) clarifies the application of law and does not enlarge, eliminate, or destroy vested rights.
- 723 (e)
- (i) As used in this Subsection (3)(e), "additional motor vehicle" means a change that increases the total number of vehicles insured by the policy, and does not include replacement, substitute, or temporary vehicles.
- 726 (ii) The adding of an additional motor vehicle to an existing personal lines or commercial lines policy does not constitute a new policy for purposes of Subsection (3)(a).

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- 729 (iii) If an additional motor vehicle is added to a personal lines policy where underinsured motorist
coverage has been rejected, or where underinsured motorist limits are lower than the named
insured's motor vehicle liability limits, the insurer shall provide a notice to a named insured within
30 days that:
- 733 (A) in the same manner described in Subsection (3)(b)(iv), explains the purpose of underinsured
motorist coverage; and
- 735 (B) encourages the named insured to contact the insurance company or insurance producer for quotes
as to the additional premiums required to purchase underinsured motorist coverage with limits equal
to the lesser of the limits of the named insured's motor vehicle liability coverage or the maximum
underinsured motorist coverage limits available by the insurer under the named insured's motor
vehicle policy.
- 741 (f) A change in policy number resulting from any policy change not identified under Subsection (3)(a)
(ii) does not constitute a new policy.
- 743 (g)
- (i) Subsection (3)(a) applies retroactively to any claim arising on or after January 1, 2001 for which, as
of May 1, 2012, an insured has not made a written demand for arbitration or filed a complaint in a
court of competent jurisdiction.
- 746 (ii) The Legislature finds that the retroactive application of Subsection (3)(a):
- 747 (A) does not enlarge, eliminate, or destroy vested rights; and
- 748 (B) clarifies legislative intent.
- 749 (h) A self-insured, including a governmental entity, may elect to provide underinsured motorist
coverage in an amount that is less than its maximum self-insured retention under Subsections (3)(b)
and (l) by issuing a declaratory memorandum or policy statement from the chief financial officer or
chief risk officer that declares the:
- 753 (i) self-insured entity's coverage level; and
- 754 (ii) process for filing an underinsured motorist claim.
- 755 (i) Underinsured motorist coverage may not be sold with limits that are less than:
- 756 (i) \$10,000 for one person in any one accident; and
- 757 (ii) at least \$20,000 for two or more persons in any one accident.
- 758

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(j) An acknowledgment under Subsection (3)(b) continues for that issuer of the underinsured motorist coverage until the named insured, in writing, requests different underinsured motorist coverage from the insurer.

761 (k)

(i) The named insured's underinsured motorist coverage, as described in Subsection (2), is secondary to the liability coverage of an owner or operator of an underinsured motor vehicle, as described in Subsection (1).

764 (ii) Underinsured motorist coverage may not be set off against the liability coverage of the owner or operator of an underinsured motor vehicle, but shall be added to, combined with, or stacked upon the liability coverage of the owner or operator of the underinsured motor vehicle to determine the limit of coverage available to the injured person.

769 (l)

(i) In conjunction with the first two renewal notices sent after January 1, 2001, for policies existing on that date, the insurer shall disclose in the same medium as the premium renewal notice, an explanation of:

772 (A) the purpose of underinsured motorist coverage in the same manner as described in Subsection (3)(b)(iv); and

774 (B) a disclosure of the additional premiums required to purchase underinsured motorist coverage with limits equal to the lesser of the limits of the named insured's motor vehicle liability coverage or the maximum underinsured motorist coverage limits available by the insurer under the named insured's motor vehicle policy.

779 (ii) The disclosure required under this Subsection (3)(l) shall be sent to all named insureds that carry underinsured motorist coverage limits in an amount less than the named insured's motor vehicle liability policy limits or the maximum underinsured motorist coverage limits available by the insurer under the named insured's motor vehicle policy.

784 (m) For purposes of this Subsection (3), a notice or disclosure sent to a named insured in a household constitutes notice or disclosure to all insureds within the household.

786 (4)

(a)

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- (i) Except as provided in this Subsection (4), a covered person injured in a motor vehicle described in a policy that includes underinsured motorist benefits may not elect to collect underinsured motorist coverage benefits from another motor vehicle insurance policy.
- 790 (ii) The limit of liability for underinsured motorist coverage for two or more motor vehicles may not be added together, combined, or stacked to determine the limit of insurance coverage available to an injured person for any one accident.
- 793 (iii) Subsection (4)(a)(ii) applies to all persons except a covered person described under Subsections (4)(b)(i) and (ii).
- 795 (b)
- (i) A covered person injured as a pedestrian by an underinsured motor vehicle may recover underinsured motorist benefits under any one other policy in which they are described as a covered person.
- 798 (ii) Except as provided in Subsection (4)(b)(iii), a covered person injured while occupying, using, or maintaining a motor vehicle that is not owned, leased, or furnished to the covered person, the covered person's spouse, or the covered person's resident parent or resident sibling, may also recover benefits under any one other policy under which the covered person is also a covered person.
- 803 (iii)
- (A) A covered person may recover benefits from no more than two additional policies, one additional policy from each parent's household if the covered person is:
- 806 (I) a dependent minor of parents who reside in separate households; and
- 807 (II) injured while occupying or using a motor vehicle that is not owned, leased, or furnished to the covered person, the covered person's resident parent, or the covered person's resident sibling.
- 810 (B) Each parent's policy under this Subsection (4)(b)(iii) is liable only for the percentage of the damages that the limit of liability of each parent's policy of underinsured motorist coverage bears to the total of both parents' underinsured coverage applicable to the accident.
- 814 (iv) A covered person's recovery under any available policies may not exceed the full amount of damages.
- 816 (v) Underinsured coverage on a motor vehicle occupied at the time of an accident is primary coverage, and the coverage elected by a person described under Subsections 31A-22-305(1)(a), (b), and (c) is secondary coverage.
- 819 (vi) The primary and the secondary coverage may not be set off against the other.

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- 820 (vii) A covered person as described under Subsection (4)(b)(i) or is entitled to the highest limits of
underinsured motorist coverage under only one additional policy per household applicable to that
covered person as a named insured, spouse, or relative.
- 824 (viii) A covered injured person is not barred against making subsequent elections if recovery is
unavailable under previous elections.
- 826 (ix)
- (A) As used in this section, "interpolicy stacking" means recovering benefits for a single incident of loss
under more than one insurance policy.
- 828 (B) Except to the extent permitted by this Subsection (4), interpolicy stacking is prohibited for
underinsured motorist coverage.
- 830 (c) Underinsured motorist coverage:
- 831 (i) in order to avoid double recovery, does not cover any benefit under Title 34A, Chapter 2, Workers'
Compensation Act, or Title 34A, Chapter 3, Utah Occupational Disease Act, provided by the
workers' compensation insurance carrier, uninsured employer, the Uninsured Employers' Fund
created in Section 34A-2-704, or the Employers' Reinsurance Fund created in Section 34A-2-702,
except that:
- 837 (A) the covered person is credited an amount described in Subsection 34A-2-106(5); and
- 839 (B) the benefits described in this Subsection (4)(c)(i) do not need to be paid before an underinsured
motorist claim may be pursued and resolved[-] ;
- 841 (ii) may not be subrogated by a workers' compensation insurance carrier, uninsured employer, the
Uninsured Employers' Fund created in Section 34A-2-704, or the Employers' Reinsurance Fund
created in Section 34A-2-702;
- 844 (iii) may not be reduced by benefits provided by the workers' compensation insurance carrier, uninsured
employer, the Uninsured Employers' Fund created in Section 34A-2-704, or the Employers'
Reinsurance Fund created in Section 34A-2-702;
- 847 (iv) notwithstanding Subsection 31A-1-103(3)(f), may be reduced by health insurance subrogation only
after the covered person is made whole;
- 849 (v) may not be collected for bodily injury or death sustained by a person:
- 850 (A) while committing a violation of Section 41-1a-1314;
- 851 (B) who, as a passenger in a vehicle, has knowledge that the vehicle is being operated in violation of
Section 41-1a-1314; or

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- 853 (C) while committing a felony; and
854 (vi) notwithstanding Subsection (4)(c)(v), may be recovered:
855 (A) for a person younger than 18 years old who is injured within the scope of Subsection (4)(c)(v), but
is limited to medical and funeral expenses; or
857 (B) by a law enforcement officer as defined in Section 53-13-103, who is injured within the course and
scope of the law enforcement officer's duties.
- 859 (5)
(a) Notwithstanding Section 31A-21-313, an action on a written policy or contract for underinsured
motorist coverage shall be commenced within four years after the inception of loss.
862 (b) The inception of the loss under Subsection 31A-21-313(1) for underinsured motorist claims occurs
upon the date of the settlement check representing the last liability policy payment.
865 (6) An underinsured motorist insurer does not have a right of reimbursement against a person liable for
the damages resulting from an injury-causing occurrence if the person's liability insurer has tendered
the policy limit and the limits have been accepted by the claimant.
869 (7) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a covered person may seek, subject to the terms and
conditions of the policy, additional coverage under any policy:
871 (a) that provides coverage for damages resulting from motor vehicle accidents; and
872 (b) that is not required to conform to Section 31A-22-302.
873 (8)
(a) When a claim is brought by a named insured or a person described in Subsection 31A-22-305(1)
and is asserted against the covered person's underinsured motorist carrier, the claimant may elect to
resolve the claim:
876 (i) by submitting the claim to binding arbitration; or
877 (ii) through litigation.
878 (b) Unless otherwise provided in the policy under which underinsured benefits are claimed, the election
provided in Subsection (8)(a) is available to the claimant only, except that if the policy under which
insured benefits are claimed provides that either an insured or the insurer may elect arbitration, the
insured or the insurer may elect arbitration and that election to arbitrate shall stay the litigation of
the claim under Subsection (8)(a)(ii).

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(c) Once a claimant elects to commence litigation under Subsection (8)(a)(ii), the claimant may not elect to resolve the claim through binding arbitration under this section without the written consent of the underinsured motorist coverage carrier.

(d) For purposes of the statute of limitations applicable to a claim described in Subsection (8)(a), if the claimant does not elect to resolve the claim through litigation, the claim is considered filed when the claimant submits the claim to binding arbitration in accordance with this Subsection (8).

(e)

(i) Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the parties, a claim that is submitted to binding arbitration under Subsection (8)(a)(i) shall be resolved by a single arbitrator.

(ii) All parties shall agree on the single arbitrator selected under Subsection (8)(e)(i).

(iii) If the parties are unable to agree on a single arbitrator as required under Subsection (8)(e)(ii), the parties shall select a panel of three arbitrators.

(f) If the parties select a panel of three arbitrators under Subsection (8)(e)(iii):

(i) each side shall select one arbitrator; and

(ii) the arbitrators appointed under Subsection (8)(f)(i) shall select one additional arbitrator to be included in the panel.

(g) Unless otherwise agreed to in writing:

(i) each party shall pay an equal share of the fees and costs of the arbitrator selected under Subsection (8)(e)(i); or

(ii) if an arbitration panel is selected under Subsection (8)(e)(iii):

(A) each party shall pay the fees and costs of the arbitrator selected by that party; and

(B) each party shall pay an equal share of the fees and costs of the arbitrator selected under Subsection (8)(f)(ii).

(h) Except as otherwise provided in this section or unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the parties, an arbitration proceeding conducted under this section is governed by Title 78B, Chapter 11, Utah Uniform Arbitration Act.

(i)

(i) The arbitration shall be conducted in accordance with Rules 26(a)(4) through (f), 27 through 37, 54, and 68 of the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure, once the requirements of Subsections (9)(a) through (c) are satisfied.

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- (ii) The specified tier as defined by Rule 26(c)(3) of the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure shall be determined based on the claimant's specific monetary amount in the written demand for payment of uninsured motorist coverage benefits as required in Subsection (9)(a)(i)(A).
- 919 (iii) Rules 26.1 and 26.2 of the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure do not apply to arbitration claims under this part.
- 921 (j) An issue of discovery shall be resolved by the arbitrator or the arbitration panel.
- 922 (k) A written decision by a single arbitrator or by a majority of the arbitration panel constitutes a final decision.
- 924 (l)
 - (i) Except as provided in Subsection (9), the amount of an arbitration award may not exceed the underinsured motorist policy limits of all applicable underinsured motorist policies, including applicable underinsured motorist umbrella policies.
- 927 (ii) If the initial arbitration award exceeds the underinsured motorist policy limits of all applicable underinsured motorist policies, the arbitration award shall be reduced to an amount equal to the combined underinsured motorist policy limits of all applicable underinsured motorist policies.
- 931 (m) The arbitrator or arbitration panel may not decide an issue of coverage or extra-contractual damages, including:
 - 933 (i) whether the claimant is a covered person;
 - 934 (ii) whether the policy extends coverage to the loss; or
 - 935 (iii) an allegation or claim asserting consequential damages or bad faith liability.
- 936 (n) The arbitrator or arbitration panel may not conduct arbitration on a class-wide or class-representative basis.
- 938 (o) If the arbitrator or arbitration panel finds that the arbitration is not brought, pursued, or defended in good faith, the arbitrator or arbitration panel may award reasonable attorney fees and costs against the party that failed to bring, pursue, or defend the arbitration in good faith.
- 942 (p) An arbitration award issued under this section shall be the final resolution of all claims not excluded by Subsection (8)(m) between the parties unless:
 - 944 (i) the award is procured by corruption, fraud, or other undue means; or
 - 945 (ii) either party, within 20 days after service of the arbitration award:
 - 946 (A) files a complaint requesting a trial de novo in the a court with jurisdiction under Title 78A, Judiciary and Judicial Administration; and

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- 948 (B) serves the nonmoving party with a copy of the complaint requesting a trial de novo under
Subsection (8)(p)(ii)(A).
- 950 (q)
- (i) Upon filing a complaint for a trial de novo under Subsection (8)(p), a claim shall proceed through
litigation in accordance with the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure and Utah Rules of Evidence.
- 953 (ii) In accordance with Rule 38, Utah Rules of Civil Procedure, either party may request a jury trial with
a complaint requesting a trial de novo under Subsection (8)(p)(ii)(A).
- 956 (r)
- (i) If the claimant, as the moving party in a trial de novo requested under Subsection (8)(p), does not
obtain a verdict that is at least \$5,000 and is at least 20% greater than the arbitration award, the
claimant is responsible for all of the nonmoving party's costs.
- 960 (ii) If the underinsured motorist carrier, as the moving party in a trial de novo requested under
Subsection (8)(p), does not obtain a verdict that is at least 20% less than the arbitration award, the
underinsured motorist carrier is responsible for all of the nonmoving party's costs.
- 964 (iii) Except as provided in Subsection (8)(r)(iv), the costs under this Subsection (8)(r) shall include:
- 966 (A) any costs set forth in Rule 54(d), Utah Rules of Civil Procedure; and
- 967 (B) the costs of expert witnesses and depositions.
- 968 (iv) An award of costs under this Subsection (8)(r) may not exceed \$2,500 unless Subsection (9)(h)(iii)
applies.
- 970 (s) For purposes of determining whether a party's verdict is greater or less than the arbitration award
under Subsection (8)(r), a court may not consider any recovery or other relief granted on a claim for
damages if the claim for damages:
- 973 (i) was not fully disclosed in writing prior to the arbitration proceeding; or
- 974 (ii) was not disclosed in response to discovery contrary to the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure.
- 976 ~~[(t) If a court determines, upon a motion of the nonmoving party, that a moving party's use of the trial
de novo process is filed in bad faith in accordance with Section 78B-5-825, the court may award
reasonable attorney fees to the nonmoving party.]~~
- 979 (t) Upon a motion of the nonmoving party, the court may award reasonable attorney fees to the
nonmoving party if the court determines that{ : } the moving party requested a trial de novo to harass,
cause unreasonable delay, needlessly increase the cost of litigation, or abuse the judicial process.
- 975 (u) { the moving party lacked an honest belief that the request for a trial de novo was proper; }

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- 983 ~~{(ii)} {the moving party intended to take unconscionable advantage of another by requesting a trial de~~
 ~~novo; or}~~
- 985 ~~{(iii)} {the moving party intended to, or acted with, the knowledge that the request for a trial de novo~~
 ~~would hinder, delay, or defraud another.}~~
- 987 ~~{(ii)} Nothing in this section is intended to limit a claim under another portion of an applicable~~
 ~~insurance policy.~~
- 989 (v) If there are multiple underinsured motorist policies, as set forth in Subsection (4), the claimant may
 elect to arbitrate in one hearing the claims against all the underinsured motorist carriers.
- 992 (9)
- (a) Within 30 days after a covered person elects to submit a claim for underinsured motorist benefits to
 binding arbitration or files litigation, the covered person shall provide to the underinsured motorist
 carrier:
- 995 (i) a written demand for payment of underinsured motorist coverage benefits, setting forth:
- 997 (A) subject to Subsection (9)(I), the specific monetary amount of the demand, including a computation
 of the covered person's claimed past medical expenses, claimed past lost wages, and all other
 claimed past economic damages; and
- 1001 (B) the factual and legal basis and any supporting documentation for the demand;
- 1002 (ii) a written statement under oath disclosing:
- 1003 (A)
- (I) the names and last known addresses of all health care providers who have rendered health care
 services to the covered person that are material to the claims for which the underinsured motorist
 benefits are sought for a period of five years preceding the date of the event giving rise to the claim
 for underinsured motorist benefits up to the time the election for arbitration or litigation has been
 exercised; and
- 1009 (II) the names and last known addresses of the health care providers who have rendered health care
 services to the covered person, which the covered person claims are immaterial to the claims for
 which underinsured motorist benefits are sought, for a period of five years preceding the date of
 the event giving rise to the claim for underinsured motorist benefits up to the time the election for
 arbitration or litigation has been exercised that have not been disclosed under Subsection (9)(a)(ii)
 (A)(I);
- 1016 (B)

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- (I) the names and last known addresses of all health insurers or other entities to whom the covered person has submitted claims for health care services or benefits material to the claims for which underinsured motorist benefits are sought, for a period of five years preceding the date of the event giving rise to the claim for underinsured motorist benefits up to the time the election for arbitration or litigation has been exercised; and
- 1022 (II) the names and last known addresses of the health insurers or other entities to whom the covered person has submitted claims for health care services or benefits, which the covered person claims are immaterial to the claims for which underinsured motorist benefits are sought, for a period of five years preceding the date of the event giving rise to the claim for underinsured motorist benefits up to the time the election for arbitration or litigation have not been disclosed;
- 1029 (C) if lost wages, diminished earning capacity, or similar damages are claimed, all employers of the covered person for a period of five years preceding the date of the event giving rise to the claim for underinsured motorist benefits up to the time the election for arbitration or litigation has been exercised;
- 1033 (D) other documents to reasonably support the claims being asserted; and
- 1034 (E) all state and federal statutory lienholders including a statement as to whether the covered person is a recipient of Medicare or Medicaid benefits or Utah Children's Health Insurance Program benefits under Title 26B, Chapter 3, Part 9, Utah Children's Health Insurance Program, or if the claim is subject to any other state or federal statutory liens; and
- 1039 (iii) signed authorizations to allow the underinsured motorist carrier to only obtain records and billings from the individuals or entities disclosed under Subsections (9)(a)(ii)(A)(I), (B)(I), and (C).
- 1042 (b)
- (i) If the underinsured motorist carrier determines that the disclosure of undisclosed health care providers or health care insurers under Subsection (9)(a)(ii) is reasonably necessary, the underinsured motorist carrier may:
- 1045 (A) make a request for the disclosure of the identity of the health care providers or health care insurers; and
- 1047 (B) make a request for authorizations to allow the underinsured motorist carrier to only obtain records and billings from the individuals or entities not disclosed.
- 1049 (ii) If the covered person does not provide the requested information within 10 days:

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- 1050 (A) the covered person shall disclose, in writing, the legal or factual basis for the failure to disclose the
health care providers or health care insurers; and
- 1052 (B) either the covered person or the underinsured motorist carrier may request the arbitrator or
arbitration panel to resolve the issue of whether the identities or records are to be provided if the
covered person has elected arbitration.
- 1055 (iii) The time periods imposed by Subsection (9)(c)(i) are tolled pending resolution of the dispute
concerning the disclosure and production of records of the health care providers or health care
insurers.
- 1058 (c)
- (i) An underinsured motorist carrier that receives an election for arbitration or a notice of filing
litigation and the demand for payment of underinsured motorist benefits under Subsection (9)(a)(i)
shall have a reasonable time, not to exceed 60 days from the date of the demand and receipt of the
items specified in Subsections (9)(a)(i) through (iii), to:
- 1063 (A) provide a written response to the written demand for payment provided for in Subsection (9)(a)
(i);
- 1065 (B) except as provided in Subsection (9)(c)(i)(C), tender the amount, if any, of the underinsured
motorist carrier's determination of the amount owed to the covered person; and
- 1068 (C) if the covered person is a recipient of Medicare or Medicaid benefits or Utah Children's
Health Insurance Program benefits under Title 26B, Chapter 3, Part 9, Utah Children's Health
Insurance Program, or if the claim is subject to any other state or federal statutory liens, tender
the amount, if any, of the underinsured motorist carrier's determination of the amount owed to
the covered person less:
- 1074 (I) if the amount of the state or federal statutory lien is established, the amount of the lien; or
- 1076 (II) if the amount of the state or federal statutory lien is not established, two times the amount of the
medical expenses subject to the state or federal statutory lien until such time as the amount of the
state or federal statutory lien is established.
- 1080 (ii) If the amount tendered by the underinsured motorist carrier under Subsection (9)(c)(i) is the total
amount of the underinsured motorist policy limits, the tendered amount shall be accepted by the
covered person.
- 1083 (d) A covered person who receives a written response from an underinsured motorist carrier as provided
for in Subsection (9)(c)(i), may:

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- 1085 (i) elect to accept the amount tendered in Subsection (9)(c)(i) as payment in full of all underinsured
motorist claims; or
- 1087 (ii) elect to:
- 1088 (A) accept the amount tendered in Subsection (9)(c)(i) as partial payment of all underinsured motorist
claims; and
- 1090 (B) continue to litigate or arbitrate the remaining claim in accordance with the election made under
Subsections (8)(a) through (c).
- 1092 (e) If a covered person elects to accept the amount tendered under Subsection (9)(c)(i) as partial
payment of all underinsured motorist claims, the final award obtained through arbitration, litigation,
or later settlement shall be reduced by any payment made by the underinsured motorist carrier under
Subsection (9)(c)(i).
- 1096 (f) In an arbitration proceeding on the remaining underinsured claims:
- 1097 (i) the parties may not disclose to the arbitrator or arbitration panel the amount paid under Subsection
(9)(c)(i) until after the arbitration award has been rendered; and
- 1099 (ii) the parties may not disclose the amount of the limits of underinsured motorist benefits provided by
the policy.
- 1101 (g) If the final award obtained through arbitration or litigation is greater than the average of the
covered person's initial written demand for payment provided for in Subsection (9)(a)(i) and the
underinsured motorist carrier's initial written response provided for in Subsection (9)(c)(i), the
underinsured motorist carrier shall pay:
- 1105 (i) the final award obtained through arbitration or litigation, except that if the award exceeds the policy
limits of the subject underinsured motorist policy by more than \$15,000, the amount shall be
reduced to an amount equal to the policy limits plus \$15,000; and
- 1109 (ii) any of the following applicable costs:
- 1110 (A) any costs as set forth in Rule 54(d), Utah Rules of Civil Procedure;
- 1111 (B) the arbitrator or arbitration panel's fee; and
- 1112 (C) the reasonable costs of expert witnesses and depositions used in the presentation of evidence during
arbitration or litigation.
- 1114 (h)
- (i) The covered person shall provide an affidavit of costs within five days of an arbitration award.
- 1116 (ii)

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(A) Objection to the affidavit of costs shall specify with particularity the costs to which the underinsured motorist carrier objects.

1118 (B) The objection shall be resolved by the arbitrator or arbitration panel.

1119 (iii) The award of costs by the arbitrator or arbitration panel under Subsection (9)(g)(ii) may not exceed \$5,000.

1121 (i)

(i) A covered person shall disclose all material information, other than rebuttal evidence, within 30 days after a covered person elects to submit a claim for underinsured motorist coverage benefits to binding arbitration or files litigation as specified in Subsection (9)(a).

1125 (ii) If the information under Subsection (9)(i)(i) is not disclosed, the covered person may not recover costs or any amounts in excess of the policy under Subsection (9)(g).

1128 (j) This Subsection (9) does not limit any other cause of action that arose or may arise against the underinsured motorist carrier from the same dispute.

1130 (k) The provisions of this Subsection (9) only apply to motor vehicle accidents that occur on or after March 30, 2010.

1132 (l)

(i) The written demand requirement in Subsection (9)(a)(i)(A) does not affect the covered person's requirement to provide a computation of any other economic damages claimed, and the one or more respondents shall have a reasonable time after the receipt of the computation of any other economic damages claimed to conduct fact and expert discovery as to any additional damages claimed. The changes made by Laws of Utah 2014, Chapter 290, Section 11, and Chapter 300, Section 11, to this Subsection (9)(l) and Subsection (9)(a)(i)(A) apply to a claim submitted to binding arbitration or through litigation on or after May 13, 2014.

1140 (ii) The changes made by Laws of Utah 2014, Chapter 290, Section 11, and Chapter

1141 300, Section 11, under Subsections (9)(a)(ii)(A)(II) and (B)(II) apply to a claim submitted to binding arbitration or through litigation on or after May 13, 2014.

1131 Section 4. Section **31A-22-321** is amended to read:

1132 **31A-22-321. Use of arbitration in third party motor vehicle accident cases.**

1145 (1) A person injured as a result of a motor vehicle accident may elect to submit all third party bodily injury claims to arbitration by filing a notice of the submission of the claim to binding arbitration in a court with jurisdiction under Title 78A, Judiciary and Judicial Administration, if:

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- 1149 (a) the claimant or the claimant's representative has:
- 1150 (i) previously and timely filed a complaint in a court that includes a third party bodily injury claim; and
- 1152 (ii) filed a notice to submit the claim to arbitration within 14 days after the complaint has been
answered; and
- 1154 (b) the notice required under Subsection (1)(a)(ii) is filed while the action under Subsection (1)(a)(i) is
still pending.
- 1156 (2)
- (a) If a party submits a bodily injury claim to arbitration under Subsection (1), the party submitting the
claim or the party's representative is limited to an arbitration award that does not exceed \$75,000 or
the defendant's per person limits of third party bodily insurance, whichever is less, in addition to any
available personal injury protection benefits and any claim for property damage.
- 1161 (b) A claim for reimbursement of personal injury protection benefits is to be resolved between insurers
as provided for in Subsection 31A-22-309(6)(a)(ii).
- 1163 (c) A claim for property damage may not be made in an arbitration proceeding under Subsection (1)
unless agreed upon by the parties in writing.
- 1165 (d) A party who elects to proceed against a defendant under this section:
- 1166 (i) waives the right to obtain a judgment against the personal assets of the defendant; and
- 1168 (ii) is limited to recovery only against available limits of insurance , plus a maximum \$15,000 in excess
of policy limits, and available costs if appealed.
- 1170 (e)
- (i) This section does not prevent a party from pursuing an underinsured motorist claim as set out in
Section 31A-22-305.3.
- 1172 (ii) An underinsured motorist claim described in Subsection (2)(e)(i) is not limited to the defendant's
per person limits of third party bodily insurance coverage or the \$75,000 limit.
- 1175 (iii) There shall be no right of subrogation on the part of the underinsured motorist carrier for a claim
submitted to arbitration under this section.
- 1177 (3) A claim for punitive damages may not be made in an arbitration proceeding under Subsection (1)
or any subsequent proceeding, even if the claim is later resolved through a trial de novo under
Subsection (11).
- 1180 (4)

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- (a) A person who has elected arbitration under this section may rescind the person's election if the rescission is made within:
- 1182 (i) 90 days after the election to arbitrate; and
- 1183 (ii) no less than 30 days before any scheduled arbitration hearing.
- 1184 (b) A person seeking to rescind an election to arbitrate under this Subsection (4) shall:
- 1185 (i) file a notice of the rescission of the election to arbitrate with the court in which the matter was filed;
- and
- 1187 (ii) send copies of the notice of the rescission of the election to arbitrate to all counsel of record to the action.
- 1189 (c) All discovery completed in anticipation of the arbitration hearing shall be available for use by the parties as allowed by the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure and Utah Rules of Evidence.
- 1192 (d) A party who has elected to arbitrate under this section and then rescinded the election to arbitrate under this Subsection (4) may not elect to arbitrate the claim under this section again.
- 1195 (5)
- (a) Unless otherwise agreed to by the parties or by order of the court, an arbitration process elected under this section is subject to Rule 26, Utah Rules of Civil Procedure.
- 1198 (b) Unless otherwise agreed to by the parties or ordered by the court, discovery shall be completed within 150 days after the date arbitration is elected under this section or the date the answer is filed, whichever is longer.
- 1201 (6)
- (a) Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the parties, a claim that is submitted to arbitration under this section shall be resolved by a single arbitrator.
- 1203 (b) Unless otherwise agreed to by the parties or ordered by the court, all parties shall agree on the single arbitrator selected under Subsection (6)(a) within 90 days of the answer of the defendant.
- 1206 (c) If the parties are unable to agree on a single arbitrator as required under Subsection (6)(b), the parties shall select a panel of three arbitrators.
- 1208 (d) If the parties select a panel of three arbitrators under Subsection (6)(c):
- 1209 (i) each side shall select one arbitrator; and
- 1210 (ii) the arbitrators appointed under Subsection (6)(d)(i) shall select one additional arbitrator to be included in the panel.
- 1212 (7) Unless otherwise agreed to in writing:

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- 1213 (a) each party shall pay an equal share of the fees and costs of the arbitrator selected under Subsection
1215 (6)(a); and
- 1216 (b) if an arbitration panel is selected under Subsection (6)(d):
- 1218 (i) each party shall pay the fees and costs of the arbitrator selected by that party's side; and
- 1220 (ii) each party shall pay an equal share of the fees and costs of the arbitrator selected under Subsection
(6)(d)(ii).
- 1223 (8) Except as otherwise provided in this section and unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the parties,
an arbitration proceeding conducted under this section shall be governed by Title 78B, Chapter 11,
Utah Uniform Arbitration Act.
- 1225 (9)
- 1227 (a) Subject to the provisions of this section, the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure and Utah Rules of
Evidence apply to the arbitration proceeding.
- 1230 (b) The Utah Rules of Civil Procedure and Utah Rules of Evidence shall be applied liberally with the
intent of concluding the claim in a timely and cost-efficient manner.
- 1232 (c) Discovery shall be conducted in accordance with Rules 26 through 37 of the Utah Rules of Civil
Procedure and shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the court in which the matter is filed.
- 1234 (d) Dispositive motions shall be filed, heard, and decided by the court prior to the arbitration proceeding
in accordance with the court's scheduling order.
- 1237 (10) A written decision by a single arbitrator or by a majority of the arbitration panel shall constitute a
final decision.
- 1238 (11) An arbitration award issued under this section shall be the final resolution of all bodily injury
claims between the parties and may be reduced to judgment by the court upon motion and notice
unless:
- 1239 (a) either party, within 20 days after service of the arbitration award:
- 1241 (i) files a notice requesting a trial de novo in the court; and
- 1242 (ii) serves the nonmoving party with a copy of the notice requesting a trial de novo under Subsection
(11)(a)(i); or
- 1243 (b) the arbitration award has been satisfied.
- (12)
- (a) Upon filing a notice requesting a trial de novo under Subsection (11):

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- (i) unless otherwise stipulated to by the parties or ordered by the court, an additional 120 days shall be allowed for further discovery;
- 1245 (ii) the additional discovery time under Subsection (12)(a)(i) shall run from the notice of appeal;
and
- 1247 (iii) the claim shall proceed through litigation in accordance with the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure
and Utah Rules of Evidence.
- 1249 (b) In accordance with Rule 38, Utah Rules of Civil Procedure, either party may request a jury trial with
a request for trial de novo filed under Subsection (11)(a)(i).
- 1251 (13)
- (a) If the plaintiff, as the moving party in a trial de novo requested under Subsection (11), does not
obtain a verdict that is at least \$5,000 and is at least 30% greater than the damages awarded in
arbitration, excluding the items listed in Subsection (19), the plaintiff is responsible for all of the
nonmoving party's costs.
- 1255 (b) The costs described in Subsection (13)(a) include:
- 1256 (i) any costs set forth in Rule 54(d), Utah Rules of Civil Procedure;
- 1257 (ii) the costs of expert witnesses and depositions;
- 1258 (iii) the arbitration costs paid by the prevailing party under Subsection (7);
- 1259 (iv) prejudgment interest described in Section 78B-5-824; and
- 1260 (v) postjudgment interest described in Section 15-1-4.
- 1261 (14)
- (a) If a defendant, as the moving party in a trial de novo requested under Subsection (11), does not
obtain a verdict that is at least 30% less than the damages awarded in arbitration, excluding the
items described in Subsection (19), the defendant is responsible for all of the nonmoving party's
costs.
- 1265 (b) The costs described in Subsection (14)(a) include:
- 1266 (i) costs described in Rule 54(d), Utah Rules of Civil Procedure;
- 1267 (ii) the costs of expert witnesses and depositions;
- 1268 (iii) the arbitration costs paid by the prevailing party under Subsection (7);
- 1269 (iv) prejudgment interest described in Section 78B-5-824; and
- 1270 (v) postjudgment interest described in Section 15-1-4.
- 1271

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(15) For purposes of determining whether a party's verdict is greater or less than the arbitration award under Subsections (13) and (14), a court may not consider any recovery or other relief granted on a claim for damages if the claim for damages:

(a) was not fully disclosed in writing prior to the arbitration proceeding; or

(b) was not disclosed in response to discovery contrary to the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure.

~~[(16) If a court determines, upon a motion of the nonmoving party, that the moving party's use of the trial de novo process was filed in bad faith as defined in Section 78B-5-825, the court may award reasonable attorney fees to the nonmoving party.]~~

(16) Upon a motion of the nonmoving party, the court may award reasonable attorney fees to the nonmoving party if the court determines that{ : } ~~the moving party requested a trial de novo to harass, cause unreasonable delay, needlessly increase the cost of litigation, or abuse the judicial process.~~

~~(17) { the moving party lacked an honest belief that the request for a trial de novo was proper; }~~

~~{(b)} { the moving party intended to take unconscionable advantage of another by requesting a trial de novo; or }~~

~~{(c)} { the moving party intended to, or acted with, the knowledge that the request for a trial de novo would hinder, delay, or defraud another. }~~

~~{(17)}~~ Nothing in this section is intended to affect or prevent any first party claim from later being brought under any first party insurance policy under which the injured person is a covered person.

(18)

(a) If a defendant requests a trial de novo under Subsection (11), the total damages award at trial may not exceed \$15,000 above any available per person limits of insurance coverage, not including the costs described in Subsection (14)(b).

(b) If a plaintiff requests a trial de novo under Subsection (11), the verdict at trial may not exceed \$75,000, or the per person limits of insurance coverage, whichever is less.

(19) All arbitration awards issued under this section shall include:

(a) the costs described in Rule 54(d), Utah Rules of Civil Procedure;

(b) the arbitration costs paid by the prevailing party under Subsection (7);

(c) prejudgment interest described in Section 78B-5-824; and

(d) postjudgment interest described in Section 15-1-4.

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(20) If a party requests a trial de novo under Subsection (11), the party shall file a copy of the notice requesting a trial de novo with the commissioner notifying the commissioner of the party's request for a trial de novo under Subsection (11).

1288 Section 5. Section **38-1a-308** is amended to read:

1289 **38-1a-308. Intentional submission of excessive lien notice -- Criminal and civil liability.**

1307 (1) As used in this section, "residential project" means a project on real property:

1308 (a) for which a preconstruction service or construction work is provided; and

1309 (b) that consists of:

1310 (i) one single-family residence; or

1311 (ii) one multi-family residence that contains no more than four units.

1312 (2) A person is guilty of a class B misdemeanor if:

1313 (a) the person intentionally submits for recording a notice of preconstruction lien or notice of construction lien against any property containing a greater demand than the sum due; and

1316 (b) by submitting the notice, the person intends:

1317 (i) to cloud the title;

1318 (ii) to exact from the owner or person liable by means of the excessive notice of preconstruction or construction lien more than is due; or

1320 (iii) to procure any unjustified advantage or benefit.

1321 (3)

(a) As used in this Subsection (3), "third party" means an owner, original contractor, or subcontractor.

1323 (b) In addition to any criminal penalty under Subsection (2), a person who submits a notice of preconstruction lien or notice of construction lien as described in Subsection (2) is liable to a third party who is affected by the notice of preconstruction lien or the notice of construction lien for twice the amount by which the lien notice exceeds the amount actually due or the actual damages incurred by the owner, original contractor, or subcontractor, whichever is greater.

1329 (4) The parties to a claim described in Subsection (3)(b) who agree to arbitrate the claim shall arbitrate in accordance with Subsections (5) through (15) if the notice of preconstruction lien, or the notice of construction lien, that is the subject of the claim is:

1332 (a) for a residential project; and

1333 (b) for \$50,000 or less.

1334 (5)

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- (a) Unless otherwise agreed to by the parties, a claim that is submitted to arbitration under this section shall be resolved by a single arbitrator.
- 1336 (b) All parties shall agree on the single arbitrator described in Subsection (5)(a) within 60 days after the day on which an answer is filed.
- 1338 (c) If the parties are unable to agree on a single arbitrator as required under Subsection (5)(b), the parties shall select a panel of three arbitrators.
- 1340 (d) If the parties select a panel of three arbitrators under Subsection (5)(c):
- 1341 (i) each side shall select one arbitrator; and
- 1342 (ii) the arbitrators selected under Subsection (5)(d)(i) shall select one additional arbitrator to be included in the panel.
- 1344 (6) Unless otherwise agreed to in writing:
- 1345 (a) each party shall pay an equal share of the fees and costs of the arbitrator selected under Subsection (5)(b); or
- 1347 (b) if an arbitration panel is selected under Subsection (5)(d):
- 1348 (i) each party shall pay the fees and costs of that party's selected arbitrator; and
- 1349 (ii) each party shall pay an equal share of the fees and costs of the arbitrator selected under Subsection (5)(d)(ii).
- 1351 (7) Except as otherwise provided in this section or otherwise agreed to by the parties, an arbitration proceeding conducted under this section shall be governed by Title 78B, Chapter 11, Utah Uniform Arbitration Act.
- 1354 (8)
- (a) Subject to the provisions of this section, the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure and the Utah Rules of Evidence shall apply to an arbitration proceeding under this section.
- 1356 (b) The Utah Rules of Civil Procedure and the Utah Rules of Evidence shall be applied liberally with the intent of resolving the claim in a timely and cost-efficient manner.
- 1358 (c) Subject to the provisions of this section, the parties shall conduct discovery in accordance with Rules 26 through 37 of the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure.
- 1360 (d) Unless otherwise agreed to by the parties or ordered by the court, discovery in an arbitration proceeding under this section shall be limited to the discovery available in a tier 1 case under Rule 26 of the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure.

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(9) A written decision by a single arbitrator or by a majority of the arbitration panel shall constitute a final decision.

(10) An arbitration award issued under this section:

(a) shall be the final resolution of all excessive notice claims described in Subsection (3)(b) that are:

(i) between the parties;

(ii) for a residential project; and

(iii) for \$50,000 or less; and

(b) may be reduced to judgment by the court upon motion and notice, unless:

(i) any party, within 20 days after the day on which the arbitration award is served, files a notice requesting a trial de novo in a court with jurisdiction under Title 78A, Judiciary and Judicial Administration; or

(ii) the arbitration award has been satisfied.

(11)

(a) Upon filing a notice requesting a trial de novo under Subsection (10)(b)(i):

(i) unless otherwise stipulated to by the parties or ordered by the court, the parties are allowed an additional 60 days for discovery; and

(ii) the claim shall proceed through litigation in accordance with the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure and the Utah Rules of Evidence.

(b) The additional discovery time described in Subsection (11)(a)(i) shall run from the day on which the notice requesting a trial de novo is filed.

(12) If the plaintiff, as the moving party in a trial de novo requested under Subsection (10)(b)(i), does not obtain a verdict that is at least 10% greater than the arbitration award, the plaintiff is responsible for all of the nonmoving party's costs, including expert witness fees.

(13) If a defendant, as the moving party in a trial de novo requested under Subsection (10)(b)(i), does not obtain a verdict that is at least 10% less than the arbitration award, the defendant is responsible for all of the nonmoving party's costs, including expert witness fees.

~~[(14) If a court determines, upon a motion of the nonmoving party, that the moving party's use of the trial de novo process was filed in bad faith, as defined in Section 78B-5-825, the court may award reasonable attorney fees to the nonmoving party.]~~

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(14) Upon a motion of the nonmoving party, the court may award reasonable attorney fees to the nonmoving party if the court determines that{~~:~~} the moving party requested a trial de novo to harass, cause unreasonable delay, needlessly increase the cost of litigation, or abuse the judicial process.

(15) {~~the moving party lacked an honest belief that the request for a trial de novo was proper;~~}

{~~(b)~~} {~~the moving party intended to take unconscionable advantage of another by requesting a trial de novo; or~~}

{~~(c)~~} {~~the moving party intended to, or acted with, the knowledge that the request for a trial de novo would hinder, delay, or defraud another.~~}

{~~(15)~~} All arbitration awards issued under this section shall bear postjudgment interest [pursuant to] in accordance with Section 15-1-4.

Section 6. Section **78B-5-825** is amended to read:

78B-5-825. Award of reasonable attorney fees in civil action -- Exceptions.

[(1) In civil actions, the court shall award reasonable attorney fees to a prevailing party if the court determines that the action or defense to the action was without merit and not brought or asserted in good faith, except under Subsection (2).]

(1) Except as provided in Subsection (3), the court shall award reasonable attorney fees to a prevailing party in a civil action if the court determines that:

(a) the nonprevailing party's civil action, or defense to the civil action, {~~was~~} is frivolous or {~~of little weight or importance having~~} has no reasonable basis in law or fact; and

{~~(b)~~}

{~~(i) {the nonprevailing party lacked an honest belief that the action or defense was proper;}~~}

{~~(ii) {the nonprevailing party intended to take unconscionable advantage of another by bringing the action or defense; or}~~}

(iii){~~(b)~~} the nonprevailing party {~~intended to~~} brought the civil action, or {~~acted with,~~} defense to the {~~knowledge that the~~ civil action {~~or defense would hinder~~}, to harass, cause unreasonable delay, {~~or defraud another~~} needlessly increase the cost of litigation, or abuse the judicial process.

(2) Except as provided in Subsection (3), the court shall award reasonable attorney fees to a party in a civil action if:

(a) the party incurred attorney fees in defense of a motion brought by the opposing party; and

(b) the court determines that:

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(i) the opposing party's motion { ~~was~~ } is frivolous or { ~~of little weight or importance having~~ } has no reasonable basis in law or fact; and

{ ~~(ii)~~ }

(ii) the opposing party brought the motion to harass, cause unreasonable delay, needlessly increase the cost of litigation, or abuse the judicial process.

[~~(2)~~] (3) { ~~the opposing party lacked an honest belief that the action or defense was proper;~~ }

{ ~~(B)~~ } { ~~the opposing party intended to take unconscionable advantage of another by bringing the motion; or~~ }

{ ~~(C)~~ } { ~~the opposing party intended to, or acted with, the knowledge that the motion would hinder, delay, or defraud another.~~ }

{ ~~[(2)] (3)~~ } The court, in the court's discretion, may award no fees or limited fees against a party under Subsection (1)[~~, but only if the court~~] or (2) if the court:

(a) finds the party has filed an affidavit of indigency under Section 78A-2-302 in the action before the court; or

(b) [the court] enters in the record the reason for not awarding fees under the provisions of Subsection (1) or (2).

Section 7. Section **78B-10a-108** is amended to read:

78B-10a-108. Trial de novo.

(1)

(a) Upon filing a notice requesting a trial de novo in accordance with Subsection 78B-10a-107(2):

(i) unless otherwise stipulated to by the parties or ordered by the court, an additional 90 days shall be allowed for further discovery;

(ii) the additional discovery time under Subsection (1)(a)(i) shall run from the notice of the request for a trial de novo; and

(iii) the claim shall proceed through litigation [~~pursuant to~~] in accordance with the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure and Utah Rules of Evidence in the district court.

(b) In accordance with Rule 38, Utah Rules of Civil Procedure, either party may request a jury trial with a request for trial de novo filed in accordance with Subsection 78B-10a-107(2)(a)(i).

(2)

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(a) If the plaintiff, as the moving party in a trial de novo requested under Subsection 78B-10a-107(2), does not obtain a verdict that is at least \$5,000 and 30% greater than the arbitration award, the plaintiff is responsible for all of the nonmoving party's costs.

1455 (b) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(c), the costs under Subsection (2)(a) shall include:

1457 (i) any costs set forth in Rule 54(d), Utah Rules of Civil Procedure; and

1458 (ii) the costs of expert witnesses and depositions.

1459 (c) An award of costs under this Subsection (2) may not exceed \$6,000.

1460 (3)

(a) If a defendant, as the moving party in a trial de novo requested in accordance with Subsection 78B-10a-107(2), does not obtain a verdict that is at least 30% less than the arbitration award, the defendant is responsible for all of the nonmoving party's costs.

1464 (b) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(c), the costs under Subsection (3)(a) shall include:

1466 (i) any costs set forth in Rule 54(d), Utah Rules of Civil Procedure; and

1467 (ii) the costs of expert witnesses and depositions.

1468 (c) An award of costs in accordance with this Subsection (3) may not exceed \$6,000.

1469 (4) For purposes of determining whether a party's verdict is greater or less than the arbitration award under Subsections (2) and (3), a court may not consider any recovery or other relief granted on a claim for damages if the claim for damages:

1472 (a) was not fully disclosed in writing prior to the arbitration proceeding; or

1473 (b) was not disclosed in response to discovery contrary to the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure.

1475 ~~[(5) If a district court determines, upon a motion of the nonmoving party, that the moving party's use of the trial de novo process was filed in bad faith as defined in Section 78B-5-825, the district court may award reasonable attorney fees to the nonmoving party.]~~

1478 (5) Upon a motion of the nonmoving party, the district court may award reasonable attorney fees to the nonmoving party if the district court determines that{~~:~~} the moving party requested a trial de novo to harass, cause unreasonable delay, needlessly increase the cost of litigation, or abuse the judicial process.

1455 (6)

(a) {the moving party lacked an honest belief that the request for a trial de novo was proper;}

1482 {~~(b)~~} {the moving party intended to take unconscionable advantage of another by requesting a trial de novo; or}

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- 1484 {(c)} {~~the moving party intended to, or acted with, the knowledge that the request for a trial de novo~~
 ~~would hinder, delay, or defraud another.~~}
- 1486 {(6)}
- {(a)} If a defendant requests a trial de novo under Subsection 78B-10a-107(2), the total verdict at trial
 may not exceed \$15,000 above any available limits of insurance coverage and the total verdict may
 not exceed \$65,000.
- 1489 (b) If a plaintiff requests a trial de novo under Subsection 78B-10a-107(2), the verdict at trial may not
 exceed \$50,000.
- 1460 Section 8. **Effective date.**
 Effective Date.
 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.

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