

**CHARITABLE CARE AMENDMENTS**

2009 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Bradley G. Last**

Senate Sponsor: Ralph Okerlund

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill amends the Health Care Providers Immunity from Liability Act.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ makes technical amendments;
- ▶ amends the definition of health care provider; and
- ▶ amends the definition of remuneration to clarify that a charitable contribution is not considered payment to the facility.

**Monies Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**58-13-3**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2006, Chapter 239

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

Section 1. Section **58-13-3** is amended to read:

**58-13-3. Qualified immunity -- Health professionals -- Charity care.**

(1) (a) (i) The Legislature finds many residents of this state do not receive medical care



28 and preventive health care because they lack health insurance or because of financial  
29 difficulties or cost.

30 (ii) The Legislature also finds that many physicians, charity health care facilities, and  
31 other health care professionals in this state would be willing to volunteer medical and allied  
32 services without compensation if they were not subject to the high exposure of liability  
33 connected with providing these services.

34 (b) The Legislature therefore declares that its intention in enacting this section is to  
35 encourage the provision of uncompensated volunteer charity health care in exchange for a  
36 limitation on liability for the health care facilities and health care professionals who provide  
37 those volunteer services.

38 (2) As used in this section:

39 (a) "Health care facility" means any clinic or hospital, church, or organization whose  
40 primary purpose is to sponsor, promote, or organize uncompensated health care services for  
41 people unable to pay for health care services.

42 (b) "Health care professional" means [~~individuals licensed under Title 58, Occupations~~  
43 ~~and Professions, as physicians and surgeons, osteopaths, physician assistants, podiatrists,~~  
44 ~~optometrists, chiropractors, dentists, dental hygienists, registered nurses, certified nurse~~  
45 ~~midwives, other nurses licensed under Section 58-31b-301, and licensed Direct-entry~~  
46 ~~midwives.] a person licensed under:~~

47 (i) Chapter 5a, Podiatric Physician Licensing Act;

48 (ii) Chapter 16a, Utah Optometry Practice Act;

49 (iii) Chapter 17b, Pharmacy Practice Act;

50 (iv) Chapter 24a, Physical Therapist Practice Act;

51 (v) Chapter 31b, Nurse Practice Act;

52 (vi) Chapter 40, Recreational Therapist Practice Act;

53 (vii) Chapter, 41, Speech - language Pathology and Audiology Licensing Act;

54 (viii) Chapter 42a, Occupational Therapy Practice Act;

55 (ix) Chapter 44a, Nurse Midwife Practice Act;

56 (x) Chapter 49, Dietician Certification Act;

57 (xi) Chapter 60, Mental Health Professional Practice Act;

58 (xii) Chapter 67, Utah Medical Practice Act;

59 (xiii) Chapter 68, Utah Osteopathic Medical Practice Act;

60 (xiv) Chapter 69, Dentist and Dental Hygienist Practice Act;

61 (xv) Chapter 70a, Physician Assistant Act; and

62 (xvi) Chapter 73, Chiropractic Physician Practice Act.

63 (c) "Remuneration or compensation":

64 (i) (A) means direct or indirect receipt of any payment by [~~the physician and surgeon;~~  
65 ~~health care facility, other~~] a health care professional[;] or [~~organization,]~~ health care facility on  
66 behalf of the patient, including payment or reimbursement under medicare or medicaid, or  
67 under the state program for the medically indigent on behalf of the patient; and

68 (B) compensation, salary, or reimbursement to the health care professional from any  
69 source for the health care professional's services or time in volunteering to provide  
70 uncompensated health care; and

71 (ii) does not mean any grant or donation to the health care facility used to offset direct  
72 costs associated with providing the uncompensated health care such as:

73 (A) medical supplies [or];

74 (B) drugs[-]; or

75 (C) a charitable donation to the health care facility, including a charitable donation  
76 from a patient of the health care facility.

77 (3) A health care professional who provides health care treatment at or on behalf of a  
78 health care facility is not liable in a medical malpractice action if:

79 (a) the treatment was within the scope of the health care professional's license under  
80 this title;

81 (b) neither the health care professional nor the health care facility received  
82 compensation or remuneration for the treatment;

83 (c) the acts or omissions of the health care professional were not grossly negligent or  
84 willful and wanton; and

85 (d) prior to rendering services, the health care professional disclosed in writing to the  
86 patient, or if a minor, to the patient's parent or legal guardian, that the health care professional  
87 is providing the services without receiving remuneration or compensation and that in exchange  
88 for receiving uncompensated health care, the patient consents to waive any right to sue for  
89 professional negligence except for acts or omissions which are grossly negligent or are willful

90 and wanton.

91 (4) A health care facility which sponsors, promotes, or organizes the uncompensated  
92 care is not liable in a medical malpractice action for acts and omissions if:

93 (a) the health care facility meets the requirements in Subsection (3)(b);

94 (b) the acts and omissions of the health care facility were not grossly negligent or  
95 willful and wanton; and

96 (c) the health care facility has posted, in a conspicuous place, a notice that in  
97 accordance with this section the health care facility is not liable for any civil damages for acts  
98 or omissions except for those acts or omissions that are grossly negligent or are willful and  
99 wanton.

100 (5) Immunity from liability under this section does not extend to the use of general  
101 anesthesia or care that requires an overnight stay in a general acute or specialty hospital  
102 licensed under Title 26, Chapter 21, Health Care Facility Licensing and Inspection Act.

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**Legislative Review Note**  
**as of 2-11-09 3:13 PM**

**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**

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**H.B. 399 - Charitable Care Amendments**

**Fiscal Note**

2009 General Session

State of Utah

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**State Impact**

Enactment of this bill will not require additional appropriations.

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**Individual, Business and/or Local Impact**

Enactment of this bill likely will not result in direct, measurable costs and/or benefits for individuals, businesses, or local governments.

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