

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 1304
92ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Reported from the Committee on Judiciary, February 19, 2004, with recommendation that the House Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1304 Do Pass.

STEPHEN S. DAVIS, Chief Clerk

3380L.03C

AN ACT

To repeal sections 508.010, 508.040, 508.070, 508.120, 510.263, 537.035, 537.067, 538.205, 538.210, and 538.225, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof twelve new sections relating to claims for damages and the payment thereof.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 508.010, 508.040, 508.070, 508.120, 510.263, 537.035, 537.067, 2 538.205, 538.210, and 538.225, RSMo, are repealed and twelve new sections enacted in lieu 3 thereof, to be known as sections 508.010, 510.263, 537.035, 537.067, 538.205, 538.210, 4 538.213, 538.225, 538.226, 1, 2, and 3, to read as follows:

508.010. [Suits instituted by summons shall, except as otherwise provided by law, be 2 brought] **1. As used in this section "principal place of residence", shall mean the county 3 which is the main place where an individual resides in the state of Missouri. There shall 4 be a rebuttable presumption that the county of voter registration is the principal place of 5 residence. There shall be only one principal place of residence.**

2. In all actions in which there is no count alleging a tort venue shall be determined 7 as follows:

8 (1) When the defendant is a resident of the state, either in the county within which the 9 defendant resides, or in the county within which the plaintiff resides, and the defendant may be 10 found;

11 (2) When there are several defendants, and they reside in different counties, the suit may 12 be brought in any such county;

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law. Matter in boldface type in the above law is proposed language.

13 (3) When there are several defendants, some residents and others nonresidents of the
14 state, suit may be brought in any county in this state in which any defendant resides;

15 (4) When all the defendants are nonresidents of the state, suit may be brought in any
16 county in this state[;

17 (5) Any action, local or transitory, in which any county shall be plaintiff, may be
18 commenced and prosecuted to final judgment in the county in which the defendant or defendants
19 reside, or in the county suing and where the defendants, or one of them, may be found;

20 (6) In all tort actions the suit may be brought in the county where the cause of action
21 accrued regardless of the residence of the parties, and process therein shall be issued by the court
22 of such county and may be served in any county within the state; provided, however, that in any
23 action for defamation or for invasion of privacy the cause of action shall be deemed to have
24 accrued in the county in which the defamation or invasion was first published].

25 **3. Tort actions shall include claims based upon improper health care.**

26 **4. Notwithstanding any other provision of law in all actions in which there is any**
27 **count alleging a tort, and in which the cause of action occurred in the state of Missouri**
28 **venue shall be in the county where the cause of action occurred.**

29 **5. In all actions in which there is any count alleging a tort and in which the cause**
30 **of action occurred outside the state of Missouri venue shall be determined as follows:**

31 **(1) If there is a corporate defendant then venue may be in the county where a**
32 **corporate defendant's registered agent is located and if the corporation has not reported**
33 **or maintained a registered agent then venue shall be in Cole County;**

34 **(2) If there is an individual defendant then venue may be in the county of the**
35 **individual's principal place of residence in the state of Missouri.**

36 **6. Any action, local or transitory, in which any county shall be plaintiff, may be**
37 **commenced and prosecuted to final judgment in the county in which the defendant or**
38 **defendants reside, or in the county suing and where the defendants, or one of them, may**
39 **be found.**

40 **7. In all actions process therein shall be issued by the court of such county and may**
41 **be served in any county within the state.**

42 **8. In any action for defamation or for invasion of privacy the cause of action shall**
43 **be deemed to have occurred in the county in which the defamation or invasion was first**
44 **published.**

45 **9. In all actions venue shall be determined as of the date of the occurrence.**

46 **10. All motions to dismiss or to transfer based upon a claim of improper venue shall**
47 **be deemed granted if not denied within ninety days of filing of the motion unless such time**
48 **period is waived in writing by all parties.**

510.263. 1. All actions tried before a jury involving punitive damages, **including tort actions based upon improper health care**, shall be conducted in a bifurcated trial before the same jury if requested by any party.

2. In the first stage of a bifurcated trial, in which the issue of punitive damages is submissible, the jury shall determine liability for compensatory damages, the amount of compensatory damages, including nominal damages, and the liability of a defendant for punitive damages. Evidence of defendant's financial condition shall not be admissible in the first stage of such trial unless admissible for a proper purpose other than the amount of punitive damages.

3. If during the first stage of a bifurcated trial the jury determines that a defendant is liable for punitive damages, that jury shall determine, in a second stage of trial, the amount of punitive damages to be awarded against such defendant. Evidence of such defendant's net worth shall be admissible during the second stage of such trial.

4. Within the time for filing a motion for new trial, a defendant may file a post-trial motion requesting the amount awarded by the jury as punitive damages be credited by the court with amounts previously paid by the defendant for punitive damages arising out of the same conduct on which the imposition of punitive damages is based. At any hearing, the burden on all issues relating to such a credit shall be on the defendant and either party may introduce relevant evidence on such motion. Such a motion shall be determined by the trial court within the time and according to procedures applicable to motions for new trial. If the trial court sustains such a motion the trial court shall credit the jury award of punitive damages by the amount found by the trial court to have been previously paid by the defendant arising out of the same conduct and enter judgment accordingly. If the defendant fails to establish entitlement to a credit under the provisions of this section, or the trial court finds from the evidence that the defendant's conduct out of which the prior punitive damages award arose was not the same conduct on which the imposition of punitive damages is based in the pending action, or the trial court finds the defendant unreasonably continued the conduct after acquiring actual knowledge of the dangerous nature of such conduct, the trial court shall disallow such credit, or, if the trial court finds that the laws regarding punitive damages in the state in which the prior award of punitive damages was entered substantially and materially deviate from the law of the state of Missouri and that the nature of such deviation provides good cause for disallowance of the credit based on the public policy of Missouri, then the trial court may disallow all or any part of the credit provided by this section.

5. The credit allowable under this section shall not apply to causes of action for libel, slander, assault, battery, false imprisonment, criminal conversation, malicious prosecution or fraud.

6. The doctrines of remittitur and additur, based on the trial judge's assessment of the

37 totality of the surrounding circumstances, shall apply to punitive damage awards.

38 **7. As used in this section, the term "punitive damage award" means an award for**
39 **punitive or exemplary damages or an award for aggravating circumstances.**

40 **8. Discovery as to a defendant's assets shall be allowed only after a finding by the**
41 **trial court that it is more likely than not that the plaintiff will be able to present a**
42 **submissible case to the trier of fact on the plaintiff's claim of punitive damages.**

537.035. 1. As used in this section, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the
2 following words and terms shall have the meanings indicated:

3 (1) "Health care professional", a physician or surgeon licensed under the provisions of
4 chapter 334, RSMo, or a dentist licensed under the provisions of chapter 332, RSMo, or a
5 podiatrist licensed under the provisions of chapter 330, RSMo, or an optometrist licensed under
6 the provisions of chapter 336, RSMo, or a pharmacist licensed under the provisions of chapter
7 338, RSMo, or a chiropractor licensed under the provisions of chapter 331, RSMo, or a
8 psychologist licensed under the provisions of chapter 337, RSMo, or a nurse licensed under the
9 provisions of chapter 335, RSMo, or a social worker licensed under the provisions of chapter
10 337, RSMo, or a professional counselor licensed under the provisions of chapter 337, RSMo, or
11 a mental health professional as defined in section 632.005, RSMo, while acting within their
12 scope of practice;

13 (2) "Peer review committee", a committee of health care professionals with the
14 responsibility to evaluate, maintain, or monitor the quality and utilization of health care services
15 or to exercise any combination of such responsibilities.

16 2. A peer review committee may be constituted as follows:

17 (1) Comprised of, and appointed by, a state, county or local society of health care
18 professionals;

19 (2) Comprised of, and appointed by, the partners, shareholders, or employed health care
20 professionals of a partnership or professional corporation of health care professionals;

21 (3) Appointed by the board of trustees, chief executive officer, or the organized medical
22 staff of a licensed hospital, or other health facility operating under constitutional or statutory
23 authority, **including long-term care facilities licensed under chapter 198, RSMo**, or an
24 administrative entity of the department of mental health recognized pursuant to the provisions
25 of subdivision (3) of subsection 1 of section 630.407, RSMo;

26 (4) Any other organization formed pursuant to state or federal law authorized to exercise
27 the responsibilities of a peer review committee and acting within the scope of such authorization;

28 (5) Appointed by the board of directors, chief executive officer or the medical director
29 of the licensed health maintenance organization.

30 3. Each member of a peer review committee and each person, hospital governing board,

31 health maintenance organization board of directors, and chief executive officer of a licensed
32 hospital or other hospital operating under constitutional or statutory authority, chief executive
33 officer or medical director of a licensed health maintenance organization who testifies before,
34 or provides information to, acts upon the recommendation of, or otherwise participates in the
35 operation of, such a committee shall be immune from civil liability for such acts so long as the
36 acts are performed in good faith, without malice and are reasonably related to the scope of
37 inquiry of the peer review committee.

38 4. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the proceedings, findings, deliberations,
39 reports, and minutes of peer review committees concerning the health care provided any patient
40 are privileged and shall not be subject to discovery, subpoena, or other means of legal
41 compulsion for their release to any person or entity or be admissible into evidence in any judicial
42 or administrative action for failure to provide appropriate care. Except as otherwise provided
43 in this section, no person who was in attendance at any peer review committee proceeding shall
44 be permitted or required to disclose any information acquired in connection with or in the course
45 of such proceeding, or to disclose any opinion, recommendation, or evaluation of the committee
46 or board, or any member thereof; provided, however, that information otherwise discoverable
47 or admissible from original sources is not to be construed as immune from discovery or use in
48 any proceeding merely because it was presented during proceedings before a peer review
49 committee nor is a member, employee, or agent of such committee, or other person appearing
50 before it, to be prevented from testifying as to matters within his personal knowledge and in
51 accordance with the other provisions of this section, but such witness cannot be questioned about
52 testimony or other proceedings before any health care review committee or board or about
53 opinions formed as a result of such committee hearings.

54 5. The provisions of subsection 4 of this section limiting discovery and admissibility of
55 testimony as well as the proceedings, findings, records, and minutes of peer review committees
56 do not apply in any judicial or administrative action brought by a peer review committee or the
57 legal entity which formed or within which such committee operates to deny, restrict, or revoke
58 the hospital staff privileges or license to practice of a physician or other health care providers;
59 or when a member, employee, or agent of the peer review committee or the legal entity which
60 formed such committee or within which such committee operates is sued for actions taken by
61 such committee which operate to deny, restrict or revoke the hospital staff privileges or license
62 to practice of a physician or other health care provider.

63 6. Nothing in this section shall limit authority otherwise provided by law of a health care
64 licensing board of the state of Missouri to obtain information by subpoena or other authorized
65 process from peer review committees or to require disclosure of otherwise confidential
66 information relating to matters and investigations within the jurisdiction of such health care

67 licensing boards.

537.067. [1.] In all tort actions for damages[, in which fault is not assessed to the
2 plaintiff], [the defendants] **a defendant** shall be jointly and severally liable for the amount of
3 [the judgment] **the compensatory damages and noneconomic damages portion of the**
4 **judgment** rendered against [such] defendants **only if such defendant is found to bear fifty**
5 **percent or more of fault. A defendant may not be jointly or severally liable for more than**
6 **the percentage of punitive damages for which fault is attributed to such defendant by the**
7 **trier of fact.**

8 [2. In all tort actions for damages in which fault is assessed to plaintiff the defendants
9 shall be jointly and severally liable for the amount of the judgment rendered against such
10 defendants except as follows:

11 (1) In all such actions in which the trier of fact assesses a percentage of fault to the
12 plaintiff, any party, including the plaintiff, may within thirty days of the date the verdict is
13 rendered move for reallocation of any uncollectible amounts;

14 (2) If such a motion is filed the court shall determine whether all or part of a party's
15 equitable share of the obligation is uncollectible from that party, and shall reallocate any
16 uncollectible amount among the other parties, including a claimant at fault, according to their
17 respective percentages of fault;

18 (3) The party whose uncollectible amount is reallocated is nonetheless subject to
19 contribution and to any continuing liability to the claimant on the judgment[;].

20 [(4) No amount shall be reallocated to any party whose assessed percentage of fault is
21 less than the plaintiff's so as to increase that party's liability by more than a factor of two;

22 (5) If such a motion is filed, the parties may conduct discovery on the issue of
23 collectibility prior to a hearing on such motion;

24 (6) Any order of reallocation pursuant to this section shall be entered within one hundred
25 twenty days after the date of filing such a motion for reallocation. If no such order is entered
26 within that time, such motion shall be deemed to be overruled;

27 (7) Proceedings on a motion for reallocation shall not operate to extend the time
28 otherwise provided for post-trial motion or appeal on other issues.

29

30 Any appeal on an order or denial of reallocation shall be taken within the time provided under
31 applicable rules of civil procedure and shall be consolidated with any other appeal on other
32 issues in the case.

33 3. This section shall not be construed to expand or restrict the doctrine of joint and
34 several liability except for reallocation as provided in subsection 2.]

538.205. As used in sections 538.205 to 538.230, the following terms shall mean:

- 2 (1) "Economic damages", damages arising from pecuniary harm including, without
3 limitation, medical damages, and those damages arising from lost wages and lost earning
4 capacity;
- 5 (2) "Equitable share", the share of a person or entity in an obligation that is the same
6 percentage of the total obligation as the person's or entity's allocated share of the total fault, as
7 found by the trier of fact;
- 8 (3) "Future damages", damages that the trier of fact finds will accrue after the damages
9 findings are made;
- 10 (4) "Health care provider", any physician, hospital, health maintenance organization,
11 ambulatory surgical center, long-term care facility **including those licensed under chapter 198,**
12 **RSMo**, dentist, registered or licensed practical nurse, optometrist, podiatrist, pharmacist,
13 chiropractor, professional physical therapist, psychologist, physician-in-training, and any other
14 person or entity that provides health care services under the authority of a license or certificate;
- 15 (5) "Health care services", any services that a health care provider renders to a patient
16 in the ordinary course of the health care provider's profession or, if the health care provider is an
17 institution, in the ordinary course of furthering the purposes for which the institution is
18 organized. Professional services shall include, but are not limited to, transfer to a patient of
19 goods or services incidental or pursuant to the practice of the health care provider's profession
20 or in furtherance of the purposes for which an institutional health care provider is organized;
- 21 (6) "Medical damages", damages arising from reasonable expenses for necessary drugs,
22 therapy, and medical, surgical, nursing, x-ray, dental, custodial and other health and
23 rehabilitative services;
- 24 (7) "Noneconomic damages", damages arising from nonpecuniary harm including,
25 without limitation, pain, suffering, mental anguish, inconvenience, physical impairment,
26 disfigurement, loss of capacity to enjoy life, and loss of consortium but shall not include punitive
27 damages;
- 28 (8) "Past damages", damages that have accrued when the damages findings are made;
- 29 (9) "Physician employee", any person or entity who works for hospitals for a salary or
30 under contract and who is covered by a policy of insurance or self-insurance by a hospital for acts
31 performed at the direction or under control of the hospital;
- 32 (10) "Punitive damages", damages intended to punish or deter willful, wanton or
33 malicious misconduct, **including exemplary damages and damages for aggravating**
34 **circumstances**;
- 35 (11) "Self-insurance", a formal or informal plan of self-insurance or no insurance of any
36 kind.

538.210. 1. In any action against a health care provider for damages for personal injury

2 or death arising out of the rendering of or the failure to render health care services, no plaintiff
3 shall recover more than [three] **four** hundred [fifty] thousand dollars [per occurrence] for
4 noneconomic damages from any one defendant as defendant is defined in subsection 2 of this
5 section.

6 2. "Defendant" for purposes of sections 538.205 to 538.230 shall be defined as:

7 (1) A hospital as defined in chapter 197, RSMo, and its employees and physician
8 employees who are insured under the hospital's professional liability insurance policy or the
9 hospital's self-insurance maintained for professional liability purposes;

10 (2) A physician, including his nonphysician employees who are insured under the
11 physician's professional liability insurance or under the physician's self-insurance maintained for
12 professional liability purposes;

13 (3) Any other health care provider, **including but not limited to a facility licensed**
14 **under chapter 198, RSMo**, having the legal capacity to sue and be sued and who is not included
15 in subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection, including employees of any health care providers
16 who are insured under the health care provider's professional liability insurance policy or
17 self-insurance maintained for professional liability purposes;

18 (4) **Any other individual or entity that is a defendant in a lawsuit brought against**
19 **a health care provider pursuant to this chapter, or that is a defendant in any lawsuit that**
20 **arises out of the rendering of or the failure to render health care services;**

21 (5) **No hospital or other health care provider shall be liable to any plaintiff based**
22 **solely on the actions or omissions of any other entity or person who is not an employee of**
23 **that hospital or other health care provider.**

24 3. In any action against a health care provider for damages for personal injury or death
25 arising out of the rendering of or the failure to render health care services, where the trier of fact
26 is a jury, such jury shall not be instructed by the court with respect to the limitation on an award
27 of noneconomic damages, nor shall counsel for any party or any person providing testimony
28 during such proceeding in any way inform the jury or potential jurors of such limitation.

29 4. [The limitation on awards for noneconomic damages provided for in this section shall
30 be increased or decreased on an annual basis effective January first of each year in accordance
31 with the Implicit Price Deflator for Personal Consumption Expenditures as published by the
32 Bureau of Economic Analysis of the United States Department of Commerce. The current value
33 of the limitation shall be calculated by the director of the department of insurance, who shall
34 furnish that value to the secretary of state, who shall publish such value in the Missouri Register
35 as soon after each January first as practicable, but it shall otherwise be exempt from the
36 provisions of section 536.021, RSMo.] **For purposes of sections 538.205 to 538.230, any**
37 **spouse claiming damages for loss of consortium of their spouse shall be considered to be**

38 **the same plaintiff as their spouse.**

39 5. Any provision of law or court rule to the contrary notwithstanding, an award of
40 punitive damages against a health care provider governed by the provisions of sections 538.205
41 to 538.230 shall be made only upon a showing by a plaintiff that the health care provider
42 demonstrated willful, wanton or malicious misconduct with respect to his actions which are
43 found to have injured or caused or contributed to cause the damages claimed in the petition.

44 **6. For purposes of sections 538.205 to 538.230, all individuals and entities asserting**
45 **a claim for a wrongful death pursuant to section 537.080, RSMo, shall be considered to be**
46 **one plaintiff.**

538.213. 1. Any physician licensed pursuant to chapter 334, RSMo, or dentist
2 **licensed pursuant to chapter 332, RSMo, or hospital, or employee of a hospital as defined**
3 **in section 197.020, RSMo, or other health care provider as defined in section 538.205, who**
4 **renders any care or assistance in a hospital shall not be held liable for more than four**
5 **hundred thousand dollars in civil damages, exclusive of interest computed from the date**
6 **of judgment, to or for the benefit of any claimant arising out of any act or omission in**
7 **rendering that care or assistance when:**

8 **(1) The care or assistance is rendered in a hospital emergency room, or is care**
9 **rendered within twenty-four hours of entering the emergency room;**

10 **(2) The care or assistance rendered is necessitated by a traumatic injury demanding**
11 **immediate medical attention for which the patient enters the hospital through its**
12 **emergency room or trauma center; and**

13 **(3) The care or assistance is rendered in good faith and in a manner not amounting**
14 **to gross negligence or reckless, willful, or wanton conduct.**

15 **2. The limitation on liability provided pursuant to this section does not apply to any**
16 **act or omission in rendering care or assistance which:**

17 **(1) Occurs after the patient is stabilized and is capable of receiving medical**
18 **treatment as a nonemergency patient; or**

19 **(2) Is unrelated to the original traumatic injury.**

20 **3. There shall be a rebuttable presumption that the medical condition was the result**
21 **of the original traumatic injury.**

22 **4. For the purposes of this section, the following terms mean:**

23 **(1) "Reckless, willful, or wanton conduct", as it applies to a person to whom**
24 **subsection 1 of this section applies, is deemed to be that conduct which the person knew or**
25 **should have known at the time he or she rendered the care or assistance would be likely**
26 **to result in injury so as to affect the life or health of another person, taking into**
27 **consideration to the extent applicable:**

- 28 (a) **The extent or serious nature of the prevailing circumstances;**
29 (b) **The lack of time or ability to obtain appropriate consultation;**
30 (c) **The lack of a prior medical relationship with the patient;**
31 (d) **The inability to obtain an appropriate medical history of the patient; and**
32 (e) **The time constraints imposed by coexisting emergencies;**
33 (2) **"Traumatic injury", any acute injury which, according to standardized criteria**
34 **for triage in the field, involves a significant risk of death or the precipitation of**
35 **complications or disabilities.**

538.225. 1. In any action against a health care provider for damages for personal injury
2 or death on account of the rendering of or failure to render health care services, the plaintiff or
3 [his] **the plaintiff's** attorney shall file an affidavit with the court stating that he **or she** has
4 obtained the written opinion of a legally qualified health care provider which states that the
5 defendant health care provider failed to use such care as a reasonably prudent and careful health
6 care provider would have under similar circumstances and that such failure to use such
7 reasonable care directly caused or directly contributed to cause the damages claimed in the
8 petition. **The written opinion shall be subject to in camera review at the request of any**
9 **defendant for a determination of whether the health care provider offering such an opinion**
10 **meets the qualifications set forth in subsection 6 of this section.**

11 2. The affidavit shall state the qualifications of such health care providers to offer such
12 opinion.

13 3. A separate affidavit shall be filed for each defendant named in the petition.

14 4. Such affidavit shall be filed no later than ninety days after the filing of the petition
15 unless the court, for good cause shown, orders that such time be extended **for a period of time**
16 **not to exceed an additional ninety days.**

17 5. If the plaintiff or his attorney fails to file such affidavit the court [may] **shall**, upon
18 motion of any party, dismiss the action against such moving party without prejudice.

19 6. **As used in this section, the term "legally qualified health care provider" means**
20 **a health care provider licensed in this state or any other state in substantially the same**
21 **profession and specialty as the defendant.**

538.226. 1. **The portion of statements, writings, or benevolent gestures expressing**
2 **sympathy or a general sense of benevolence relating to the pain, suffering, or death of a**
3 **person and made to that person or to the family of that person shall be inadmissible as**
4 **evidence of an admission of liability in a civil action. A statement of fault, however, which**
5 **is part of, or in addition to, any of the provisions of this subsection shall not be**
6 **inadmissible pursuant to this section.**

7 2. **For the purposes of this section:**

8 (1) "Benevolent gestures", actions which convey a sense of compassion or
9 commiseration emanating from humane impulses;

10 (2) "Family", the spouse, parent, grandparent, stepmother, stepfather, child,
11 grandchild, brother, sister, half brother, half sister, lifetime partner or significant other,
12 adopted children of a parent, or spouse's parents of an injured party.

Section 1. 1. Any person authorized by law to obtain a patient's records may file
2 a miscellaneous case for purpose of securing copies of said health care records.

3 2. A miscellaneous case shall be filed in the circuit in which any of the health care
4 records sought to be obtained are located.

5 3. (1) The petition shall contain the following:

6 (a) The name of the individual who received the health care services or medical
7 treatment;

8 (b) A brief summary of the health care services or medical treatment received;

9 (c) A brief summary of the outcome of the health care services or medical
10 treatment; and

11 (d) The names of the health care providers from whom health care records are
12 being sought.

13 (2) The petition shall not contain:

14 (a) Allegations of negligence; or

15 (b) Demands, other than a general demand for access to health care records.

16 4. Within five days of filing the miscellaneous case, the petitioner shall mail a copy
17 of the petition by regular and certified mail to each health care provider listed in the
18 petition. The petitioner shall certify to the court that the petition has been mailed as
19 required.

20 5. After filing a miscellaneous case, the petitioner may request the health care
21 records described in subsection 1 of this section by subpoena and, if necessary, subpoena
22 the health care records custodian for a deposition for the sole purpose of securing copies
23 of the health care records and verifying their authenticity. Refusal to provide the
24 requested records may be the basis for the court to impose sanctions or orders of contempt.

25 6. The naming or listing of a health care provider as a person from whom records
26 are requested shall not be considered for any reporting purposes as a claim made against
27 the health care provider.

28 7. A health care provider, or any person or entity acting on behalf of a health care
29 provider shall not charge more than is allowable pursuant to section 191.227, RSMo, for
30 providing copies of health care records.

Section 2. If any provision of this act is found by a court of competent jurisdiction

2 **to be invalid or unconstitutional it is the stated intent of the legislature that the legislature**
 3 **would have approved the remaining portions of the act, and the remaining portions of the**
 4 **act shall remain in full force and effect.**

2 **Section 3. The provisions of this act shall only apply to causes of action filed after**
 2 **August 28, 2004.**

2 [508.040. Suits against corporations shall be commenced
 2 either in the county where the cause of action accrued, or in case the
 3 corporation defendant is a railroad company owning, controlling or
 4 operating a railroad running into or through two or more counties in
 5 this state, then in either of such counties, or in any county where such
 6 corporations shall have or usually keep an office or agent for the
 7 transaction of their usual and customary business.]
 8

2 [508.070. 1. Suit may be brought against any motor carrier
 2 which is subject to regulation pursuant to chapter 390, RSMo, in any
 3 county where the cause of action may arise, in any town or county
 4 where the motor carrier operates, or judicial circuit where the cause
 5 of action accrued, or where the defendant maintains an office or
 6 agent, and service may be had upon the motor carrier whether an
 7 individual person, firm, company, association, or corporation, by
 8 serving process upon the director, division of motor carrier and
 9 railroad safety.

10 2. When a summons and petition are served upon the director,
 11 division of motor carrier and railroad safety, naming any motor
 12 carrier, either a resident or nonresident of this state, as a defendant in
 13 any action, the director shall immediately mail the summons and
 14 petition by registered United States mail to the motor carrier at the
 15 business address of the motor carrier as it appears upon the records of
 16 the commission. The director shall request from the postmaster a
 17 return receipt from the motor carrier to whom the registered letter
 18 enclosing copy of summons and petition is mailed. The director shall
 19 inform the clerk of the court out of which the summons was issued
 20 that the summons and petition were mailed to the motor carrier, as
 21 herein described, and the director shall forward to the clerk the return
 22 receipt showing delivery of the registered letter.

23 3. Each motor carrier not a resident of this state and not
 24 maintaining an office or agent in this state shall, in writing, designate
 25 the director as its authorized agent upon whom legal service may be
 26 had in all actions arising in this state from any operation of the motor
 27 vehicle pursuant to authority of any certificate or permit, and service
 28 shall be had upon the nonresident motor carrier as herein provided.

29 4. There shall be kept in the office of the director, division of

30 motor carrier and railroad safety a permanent record showing all
31 process served, the name of the plaintiff and defendant, the court
32 from which the summons issued, the name and title of the officer
33 serving the same, the day and the hour of service, the day and date on
34 which petition and summons were forwarded to the defendant or
35 defendants by registered letter, the date on which return receipt is
36 received by the director, and the date on which the return receipt was
37 forwarded to the clerk of the court out of which the summons was
38 issued.]

39

2 [508.120. No defendant shall be allowed a change of venue
3 and no application by a defendant to disqualify a judge shall be
4 granted unless the application therefor is made before the filing of his
5 answer to the merits, except when the cause for the change of venue
6 or disqualification arises, or information or knowledge of the
7 existence thereof first comes to him, after the filing of his answer in
8 which case the application shall state the time when the cause arose
9 or when applicant acquired information and knowledge thereof, and
the application must be made within five days thereafter.]