

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 2242H.02C
Bill No.: HCS for HB 918
Subject: Liability; Civil Procedure
Type: Original
Date: March 17, 2025

Bill Summary: This proposal establishes immunity from liability for certain designers, manufacturers, sellers, and lessors of products.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE	0	0	0

- Estimated Net Effect (expenditures or reduced revenues) expected to exceed \$250,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act or at full implementation of the act.
- Estimated Net Effect (savings or increased revenues) expected to exceed \$250,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act or at full implementation of the act.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Local Government	\$0	\$0	\$0

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Officials from the **Attorney General’s Office** did not respond to **Oversight’s** request for fiscal impact for this proposal.

§537.767 – Civil Actions for Personal Injury, Death or Property Damage

In response to a previous version, officials from the **Office of Attorney General (AGO)** assumed any potential litigation costs arising from this proposal can be absorbed with existing resources. However, the AGO may seek additional appropriations if the proposal results in a significant increase in litigation or investigation.

Oversight does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight assumes the AGO will be able to perform any additional duties required by this proposal with current staff and resources and will reflect no fiscal impact to the AGO for fiscal note purposes.

Officials from the **Department of Commerce and Insurance, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, the Office of the State Courts Administrator, the Department of Revenue** and the **Office of Administration** each assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their respective organizations. **Oversight** does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero impact in the fiscal note for these agencies.

Oversight notes the following number of tort cases over the last 5 years involving personal injury, property damage and wrongful death.

	Tort	Tort	Tort	Tort	Tort	
	Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases	5 Year
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Average</u>
Personal Injury Vehicular	4,241	3,887	4,397	4,660	4,443	4,326
Personal Injury Fed-Empt Liability	37	34	52	35	46	41
Personal Injury Malpractice	427	484	507	529	569	503
Personal Injury Product Liability	9,251	5,738	2,045	2,704	596	4,067
Personal Injury Other	2,104	1,884	1,981	2,149	2,137	2,051
Property Damage	1,532	1,561	1,551	1,776	2,223	1,729
Wrongful Death	764	771	703	752	684	735
TOTAL	18,356	14,359	11,236	12,605	10,698	13,451

Source: Tables 27 & 33 of OSCA's Annual Judicial & Statistical Report Supplement

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2026 (10 Mo.)	FY 2027	FY 2028
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2026 (10 Mo.)	FY 2027	FY 2028
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

Small businesses who have civil claims for personal injury, property damage or death brought against them could be impacted by this proposal.

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

The proposed legislation appears to have no direct fiscal impact.

This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Office of the State Courts Administrator
 Attorney General’s Office
 Department of Commerce and Insurance
 Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
 Department of Revenue
 Office of Administration



Julie Morff
 Director
 March 17, 2025



Jessica Harris
 Assistant Director
 March 17, 2025