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2007 State Tort Reform Enactments

(as of December 2007)

Georgia

Asbestos/Silica Litigation Reform - S.B. 182

Reenacted the 2005 legislation struck down on constitutional grounds related to retroactivity. Established objective medical criteria required to bring asbestos or silica claims; reformed successor asbestos-related liability.

Kentucky

Appeal Bond Reform – H.B. 426

Provided that the total appeal bond required collectively of all appellants during the appeal of a civil action may not exceed one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000) in the aggregate, regardless of the amount of the judgment.

New Mexico

Appeal Bond Reform – S.B. 335

Established a maximum bond amount of one-hundred million (100,000,000) dollars on supersedeas bonds required of signatories to the master settlement agreement.

North Dakota

Medical Liability Reform/Expressions of Sympathy - H.B. 1333

Provided that a statement, affirmation, gesture, or conduct of a health care provider or their employee or agent that expresses apology, sympathy, commiseration, condolence, compassion, or benevolence to a patient is not admissible as evidence of liability.

Oklahoma

Medical Liability Reform/Volunteer Legal Protection - S.B. 930

Allowed charitable health care providers rendering professional services gratuitously to be exempt from legal liability.

West Virginia

Appeal Bond Reform – S.B. 194

Limited appeal bond amounts to \$50 million, adjusted for inflation.

Wyoming

Appeal Bond Reform – H.B. 196

Limited appeal bond amounts to \$25 million, and contained \$2 million limit for individuals or small businesses defined as an employer with 50 or fewer employees.