American Tort Reform Association

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1992 Tort Reform Enactments

As of December 31, 1992

B 1047

• provides immunity for the good faith actions of those serving on boards as volunteers.

HB 1168

• allows judges to refer litigants to alternative dispute resolution systems when available.

Minnesota -- HF 2800

• a comprehensive health care access act which contains a provision for an absolute defense against medical malpractice when doctors adhere to practice parameters. Non-compliance to practice parameters may not be used as a basis for a cause of action.

New Hampshire -- SB 339

• (part of an economic development package)

establishes a committee to study the impact of product liability on New Hampshire businesses.

New York -- SB 7589 (part of a comprehensive budget bill)

• requires that 20% of all punitive damages awards be paid to the New York State General Fund.

Vermont -- HB 733

• (part of a comprehensive health care reform bill)

makes Vermont's current <u>voluntary</u> arbitration statutes for medical liability claims a <u>mandatory</u> process. The arbitration's board's decision would be binding if there is a prior agreement between the parties to make it so. The board's decision would also be admissible as evidence at a subsequent trial. The board's effectiveness would be studied after three years of operation.