

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
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HOUSE BILL 1297  
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/27/05  
Senate Judiciary I Committee Substitute Adopted 7/6/05  
Fourth Edition Engrossed 7/20/05

Short Title: MRC and CERT Volunteers Qualified Immunity.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 20, 2005

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO PROVIDE QUALIFIED IMMUNITY FROM CIVIL LIABILITY FOR ANY VOLUNTEER WHO SERVES IN A MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS UNIT OR ON A COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM WHILE ENGAGED IN PROVIDING EMERGENCY SERVICES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 1-539.10 reads as rewritten:

"§ 1-539.10. **Immunity from civil liability for volunteers.**

(a) A volunteer who performs services for a charitable organization or a volunteer engaged in providing emergency services is not liable in civil damages for any acts or omissions resulting in any injury, death, or loss to person or property arising from the volunteer services rendered if:

- (1) The volunteer was acting in good faith and the services rendered were reasonable under the circumstances; and
- (2) The acts or omissions do not amount to gross negligence, wanton conduct, or intentional wrongdoing.
- (3) The acts or omissions did not occur while the volunteer was operating or responsible for the operation of a motor vehicle.

(b) To the extent that any charitable organization or volunteer has liability insurance, that charitable organization or volunteer shall be deemed to have waived the qualified immunity herein to the extent of indemnification by insurance for the negligence by any volunteer.

(c) Nothing herein shall be construed to alter the standard of care requirement or liability of persons rendering professional services."

**SECTION 2.** G.S. 1-539.11 reads as rewritten:

"§ 1-539.11. **Definitions.**

As used in this Article:

1 (1) "Charitable Organization" means an organization that has humane and  
2 philanthropic objectives, whose activities benefit humanity or a  
3 significant rather than limited segment of the community without  
4 expectation of pecuniary profit or reward and is exempt from taxation  
5 under either G.S. 105-130.11(a)(3) or G.S. 105-130.11(a)(5) or Section  
6 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

7 (1a) "Emergency services" means the preparation for and the carrying out  
8 of functions to prevent, minimize, and repair injury and damage  
9 resulting from natural or man-made disasters and all other activities  
10 necessary or incidental to the preparation for and carrying out of these  
11 functions. These functions include firefighting services, police  
12 services, medical and health services, rescue services, engineering  
13 services, land surveying services, warning services and  
14 communications, radiological, chemical and other special weapons  
15 defense services, evacuation of persons from stricken areas,  
16 emergency welfare services, including providing emergency shelter,  
17 emergency transportation, and emergency resource management  
18 services, existing or properly assigned plant protection services,  
19 temporary restoration of public utility services, services performed as a  
20 function of a Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) unit or a Community  
21 Emergency Response Team (CERT), and other functions related to  
22 civilian protection, including the administration of approved State and  
23 federal disaster recovery and assistance programs.

24 (2) "Volunteer" means an individual, serving as a direct service volunteer  
25 performing services for a charitable, nonprofit organization, who does  
26 not receive compensation, or anything of value in lieu of  
27 compensation, for the services, other than reimbursement for expenses  
28 actually ~~incurred~~, incurred or any person providing emergency services  
29 without any financial gain."

30 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2005, and applies to  
31 causes of action that arise on or after that date.