

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE BILL 1669

Short Title: Medical Malpractice Settlement Reports. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives England, Rapp, Goforth (Primary Sponsors); Current and Justus.

Referred to: Health, if favorable, Judiciary I.

April 19, 2007

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE REPORTING OF DETAILS OF SETTLEMENTS  
3 OF MEDICAL MALPRACTICE CLAIMS.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** Article 1B of Chapter 90 is amended by adding the following  
6 new section to read:

7 "**§ 90-21.19. Settlements in medical malpractice actions; reporting.**

8 (a) In any medical malpractice action in which the parties agree to settle the  
9 claim, in reporting the claim under G.S. 58-2-170, the insurer shall identify the amount  
10 of the settlement attributable to economic damages and provide documentation to  
11 substantiate that amount.

12 (b) In any medical malpractice action in which the parties agree to settle the  
13 claim, the attorney for the plaintiff shall report the settlement to the Department of  
14 Insurance. The report shall include a certification and documentation of the amount of  
15 the settlement proceeds received in reimbursement of any costs incurred in prosecution  
16 of the case, including separate amounts expended for expert witnesses, exhibits, travel,  
17 all other categories of expenses which the attorney charges to the plaintiff, and the  
18 amount of the settlement attributable to attorneys' fees.

19 (c) For purposes of this section, a medical malpractice action is settled if at any  
20 time after the claim is made and before, during, or after trial, the parties mutually agree  
21 to end the litigation in exchange for monetary payment.

22 (d) As used in this section, the following terms mean:

23 (1) Economic damages. – Damages to compensate for present and future  
24 medical costs, hospital costs, custodial care, rehabilitation costs, lost  
25 earnings, loss of bodily function, and any other pecuniary damages.

26 (2) Insurer. – Every insurer, self-insurer, and risk retention group, as those  
27 terms are defined in Chapter 58 of the General Statutes, that provides

1                    professional malpractice insurance to health care providers in this  
2                    State."

3                    **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2007, and applies to  
4 settlements entered into on or after that date.