



January 24, 2020

SENATE BILL No. 101

DIGEST OF SB 101 (Updated January 22, 2020 7:32 pm - DI 133)

Citations Affected: IC 34-23.

Synopsis: Wrongful death damages. Increases the aggregate damages cap for a wrongful death action from \$300,000 to \$700,000.

Effective: July 1, 2020.

**Bohacek, Freeman,
Randolph Lonnie M**

January 6, 2020, read first time and referred to Committee on Judiciary.
January 23, 2020, reported favorably — Do Pass.

SB 101—LS 6372/DI 128



January 24, 2020

Second Regular Session of the 121st General Assembly (2020)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2019 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

SENATE BILL No. 101

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning civil procedure.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 34-23-1-2 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
2 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2020]: Sec. 2. (a) As used in this
3 section, "adult person" means an unmarried individual:
4 (1) who does not have any dependents; and
5 (2) who is not a child (as defined in IC 34-23-2-1).
6 (b) If the death of an adult person is caused by the wrongful act or
7 omission of another person, only the personal representative of the
8 adult person may maintain an action against the person whose wrongful
9 act or omission caused the death of the adult person.
10 (c) In an action to recover damages for the death of an adult person,
11 the damages:
12 (1) must be in an amount determined by a:
13 (A) court; or
14 (B) jury;
15 (2) may not include:
16 (A) damages awarded for a person's grief; or
17 (B) punitive damages; and

SB 101—LS 6372/DI 128



- 1 (3) may include but are not limited to the following:
- 2 (A) Reasonable medical, hospital, funeral, and burial expenses
- 3 necessitated by the wrongful act or omission that caused the
- 4 adult person's death.
- 5 (B) Loss of the adult person's love and companionship.
- 6 (d) Damages awarded under subsection (c)(3)(A) for medical,
- 7 hospital, funeral, and burial expenses inure to the exclusive benefit of
- 8 the adult person's estate for the payment of the expenses. The
- 9 remainder of the damages inure to the exclusive benefit of a
- 10 nondependent parent or nondependent child of the adult person.
- 11 (e) Aggregate damages that may be recovered under subsection
- 12 (c)(3)(B) may not exceed ~~three seven~~ hundred thousand dollars
- 13 ~~(\$300,000)~~. **(\$700,000)**. A jury may not be advised of the monetary
- 14 limits placed on damages under this subsection. If the jury awards the
- 15 plaintiff damages under subsection (c)(3)(B) in an amount that exceeds
- 16 ~~three seven~~ hundred thousand dollars ~~(\$300,000)~~, **(\$700,000)**, the court
- 17 shall reduce that part of the damages awarded to the plaintiff to ~~three~~
- 18 ~~seven~~ hundred thousand dollars ~~(\$300,000)~~. **(\$700,000)**.
- 19 (f) A parent or child who wishes to recover damages under this
- 20 section has the burden of proving that the parent or child had a
- 21 genuine, substantial, and ongoing relationship with the adult person
- 22 before the parent or child may recover damages.
- 23 (g) In an action brought under this section, a court or a jury may not
- 24 hear evidence concerning the lost earnings of the adult person that
- 25 occur as a result of the wrongful act or omission.
- 26 (h) In awarding damages under this section to more than one (1)
- 27 person, the court or the jury shall specify the amount of the damages
- 28 that should be awarded to each person.
- 29 (i) In an action brought under this section, the trier of fact shall
- 30 make a separate finding with respect to damages awarded under
- 31 subsection (c)(3)(B).



COMMITTEE REPORT

Madam President: The Senate Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 101, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the Senate with the recommendation that said bill DO PASS.

(Reference is to SB 101 as introduced.)

KOCH, Chairperson

Committee Vote: Yeas 7, Nays 3

