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# State of Misconsin 2015 - 2016 LEGISLATURE

LRB-1364/1 PJH:kjf&ahe

## **2015 SENATE BILL 378**

November 12, 2015 – Introduced by Senator Harris Dodd, cosponsored by Representatives Wachs, Berceau, Goyke, Johnson, Kessler, Ohnstad, C. Taylor and Zamarripa. Referred to Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.

- AN ACT to amend 655.007; and to create 655.018 of the statutes; relating to:
  - claims for loss of society and companionship in medical malpractice cases.

### Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, as stated in *Estate of Wells v. Mt. Sinai Medical Center*, 183 Wis. 2d 677 (1994), a parent does not have the right to recover for the loss of society and companionship of an adult child who dies as the result of medical malpractice. This bill provides that a parent does have the right to recover for loss of society and companionship if the parent's adult child dies as the result of medical malpractice, and the adult child had not reached the age of 27 when he or she died.

For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

# The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

**Section 1.** 655.007 of the statutes is amended to read:

**655.007 Patients' claims.** On and after July 24, 1975, any Any patient or the patient's representative having a claim or any spouse, parent, minor sibling, or child of the patient having a derivative claim for injury or death on account of malpractice is subject to this chapter.

#### **SENATE BILL 378**

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**Section 2.** 655.018 of the statutes is created to read:

**655.018** Claim by parent of an adult child for loss of society and companionship. If an adult child who has not attained the age of 27 at the time of his or her death dies as the result of medical malpractice, the parent of that adult child has a cause of action for damages for loss of society and companionship against the person who committed the medical malpractice. This section does not affect any other claim available under this chapter.

## SECTION 3. Initial applicability.

(1) This act first applies to acts or omissions occurring on the effective date of this subsection.

11 (END)