

2003 SENATE BILL 70

March 12, 2003 – Introduced by Senator RISSER, cosponsored by Representatives JOHNSRUD, BERCEAU, J. LEHMAN, BOYLE and COLON. Referred to Committee on Judiciary, Corrections and Privacy.

- 1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 893.82 (5m) of the statutes; **relating to:** notification of the
2 state regarding a medical malpractice claim.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, if a person is injured as the result of medical malpractice, he or she must commence an action to recover his or her damages within three years from the date of the injury or within one year from the date that the injury was discovered or should have been discovered, but not more than five years after the date of the injury. Currently, if a health care provider conceals an act from the patient that resulted in the injury, the injured patient must commence the action within one year from the date that the concealment was discovered or should have been discovered, within three years from the date of the injury, or within one year from the date that the injury was discovered, whichever is later. Currently, if a foreign object is left in a patient's body, the patient must commence the medical malpractice action within one year from the date that the person was aware of the object or should have been aware, within three years from the date of the injury, or within one year from the date that the injury was discovered, whichever is later.

Also under current law, if a person wants to bring a civil action against an officer, employee, or agent of the state for an act committed in the course of the officer's, employee's, or agent's duties, the person must first serve a notice of the claim with the attorney general within 120 days after the date of the act. The claim must include the time, date, location, and circumstances of the act that gave rise to the claim, plus the names of the persons involved in the act. If the claim is to recover damages for medical malpractice, the 120-day period is extended to 180 days after the injury was discovered or should have been discovered.

