

Legislative Bulletin

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GOVERNOR BLAGOJEVICH SIGNS JOINT and SEVERAL, TORT IMMUNITY CHANGES INTO LAW

On June 4, 2003 Governor Rod Blagojevich signed two bills into law that effect joint and several liability (735 ILCS 5/2-1117) in Illinois. Also on that date, the Governor signed into law legislation that provides for statute of limitation fairness in medical malpractice claims under the Governmental Tort Immunity Act. Here is a closer look at these new laws.

Public Acts 93-10 (House Bill 2784) and 93-12 (Senate Bill 729) together amend 735 ILCS 5/2-1117 to specifically exclude the plaintiff's employer from the calculation of fault under joint and several liability. These laws were a result of the Illinois Supreme Court's recent decision in *Unzicker v. Kraft Foods*. These Public Acts have immediate effective dates and are now the law. ITLA would like to thank Senator John Cullerton and Representative Jay Hoffman for their sponsorship of these legislative items.

Also with an effective date of June 4, 2003 is Public Act 93-11 (Senate Bill 616). This law amends the Governmental Tort Immunity Act (745 ILCS 10/8-101) to provide for a two-year statute of limitations (currently one year) in medical malpractice actions against public facilities and employees. ITLA would like to thank Senator Dale Righter and Representative Randy Hultgren for their sponsorship of Senate Bill 616.

For copies of these Public Acts, please call the ITLA office at 800-252-8501. We will be sending out additional legislative bulletins as other items of interest are acted upon by the Governor.

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