

1 SENATE BILL NO. 218

2 INTRODUCED BY J. FULLER, G. HERTZ

3

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A PRIVATE CAUSE OF ACTION FOR
5 INJURIES CAUSED BY CERTAIN MEDICAL INTERVENTIONS AS TREATMENT OF GENDER DYSPHORIA;
6 PROVIDING A STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS; ~~AMENDING SECTION 27-2-205, MCA~~; REPEALING SECTION
7 50-4-1005, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

8

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

10

11 NEW SECTION. Section 1. Private cause of action for injuries caused by treatment of gender
12 dysphoria -- statute of limitations -- definitions. (1) Any health care professional or physician who provides
13 the medical treatments listed in subsection (4) ~~is strictly liable~~ TO A MINOR, MAY BE SUBJECT TO A CIVIL ACTION IF
14 the medical treatment or the after-effects of the medical treatment result RESULTS in any injury, including
15 physical, psychological, emotional, or physiological harms, within 25 years from the date of the last treatment
16 THAT IS PROXIMATELY CAUSED BY A DEVIATION FROM THE APPLICABLE MEDICAL STANDARD OF CARE OF THE HEALTH
17 CARE PROFESSIONAL OR PHYSICIAN AS ESTABLISHED BY QUALIFIED EXPERT TESTIMONY is strictly liable if the medical
18 treatment or the after-effects of the medical treatment result in any injury, including physical, psychological,
19 emotional, or physiological harms.

20 (2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (3), a person who was a minor at the time the medical
21 treatments listed in subsection (4) were provided to the person and who suffers an injury described in
22 subsection (1) or the person's legal guardian or estate may bring a civil action with respect to the injury ~~within~~
23 ~~25 years from~~ AT ANY TIME UNTIL 2 YEARS AFTER THE PERSON REACHES THE AGE OF 30 OR UNTIL WITHIN 2 YEARS
24 AFTER FROM at any time until 2 years after the person reaches the age of 25 or until 2 years after the time of
25 discovery by the injured party of both the injury and the causal relationship between the medical treatment and
26 the injury, ~~WHICHEVER IS LATER, against the offending health care professional or physician in a court of~~
27 ~~competent jurisdiction for;~~ whichever occurs last, but in no case may an action be commenced after the person
28 reaches the age of 30.

1 (b) Except as provided in subsection (3), a person who was not a minor at the time the medical
 2 treatments listed in subsection (4) were provided to the person and who suffers an injury described in
 3 subsection (1) or the person’s legal guardian or estate may bring a civil action with respect to the injury within 2
 4 years after the date of the injury or within 2 years after the person discovers the injury, whichever occurs last,
 5 but in no case may an action be commenced after 5 years from the date of injury.

6 (c) An action under subsection (2)(a) or (2)(b) may be commenced against the offending health
 7 care professional or physician in a court of competent jurisdiction for:

8 (a)(i) declaratory or injunctive relief;

9 (b)(ii) compensatory damages, including but not limited to pain and suffering, loss of reputation, loss
 10 of income, and loss of consortium, including the loss of expectation of sharing parenthood; ~~AND~~

11 (c) — punitive damages;

12 (d)(~~c~~)(iii) any other appropriate relief; ~~and; and.~~

13 (iv) attorney fees and costs.

14 (e) — attorney fees and costs.

15 (3) (a) If the person subjected to medical treatment is under legal disability at the time the person
 16 discovers the injury and the causal relationship between the medical treatment and the injury, the limitation
 17 period in subsection (2) does not begin to run until the removal of the disability.

18 (b) The limitation period in subsection (2) does not run UNTIL THE MINOR REACHES THE AGE OF 23 OR
 19 during a time period when the individual is subject to threats, intimidation, manipulation, fraudulent
 20 concealment, or fraud perpetrated by the health care professional or physician who provided the medical
 21 treatment described in subsection (1) or by any person acting in the interest of the health care professional or
 22 physician.

23 (4) (a) Except as provided in subsection (5), a health care professional or physician may be found
 24 liable under subsection (1) for an injury PROXIMATELY caused by A DEVIATION FROM THE APPLICABLE MEDICAL
 25 STANDARD OF CARE OF THE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL OR PHYSICIAN, AS ESTABLISHED BY QUALIFIED EXPERT
 26 TESTIMONY, IN PROVIDING the following treatments ~~or the after-effects of the following treatments provided~~ or the
 27 after-effects of the following treatments provided to a MINOR female patient to address the patient's perception
 28 that the patient's gender or sex is not female:

1 (i) surgical procedures, including a vaginectomy, hysterectomy, oophorectomy, ovariectomy,
2 reconstruction of the urethra, metoidioplasty, phalloplasty, scrotoplasty, implantation of erection or testicular
3 prostheses, subcutaneous mastectomy, voice surgery, or pectoral implants;

4 (ii) supraphysiologic doses of testosterone or other androgens; or

5 (iii) puberty blockers such as GnRH agonists or other synthetic drugs that suppress the production
6 of estrogen and progesterone to delay or suppress pubertal development in female minors.

7 (b) Except as provided in subsection (5), a health care professional or physician may be found
8 liable under subsection (1) for an injury PROXIMATELY caused by A DEVIATION FROM THE APPLICABLE MEDICAL
9 STANDARD OF CARE OF THE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL OR PHYSICIAN, AS ESTABLISHED BY QUALIFIED EXPERT
10 TESTIMONY, IN PROVIDING the following treatments ~~or the after-effects of the following treatments provided~~ or the
11 after-effects of the following treatments provided to a MINOR male patient to address the patient's perception
12 that the patient's gender or sex is not male:

13 (i) surgical procedures, including a penectomy, orchiectomy, vaginoplasty, clitoroplasty,
14 vulvoplasty, augmentation mammoplasty, facial feminization surgery, voice surgery, thyroid cartilage reduction,
15 or gluteal augmentation;

16 (ii) supraphysiologic doses of estrogen; or

17 (iii) puberty blockers such as GnRH agonists or other synthetic drugs that suppress the production
18 of testosterone or delay or suppress pubertal development in male minors.

19 (5) The medical treatments listed in subsections (4)(a) and (4)(b) may be the basis of a claim
20 under subsection (1) only when knowingly provided to address a MINOR female patient's perception that the
21 patient's gender or sex is not female or a MINOR male patient's perception that the patient's gender or sex is not
22 male AND ONLY WHEN PERFORMED IN A MANNER THAT DEVIATES FROM THE APPLICABLE MEDICAL STANDARD OF CARE
23 AS ESTABLISHED BY QUALIFIED EXPERT TESTIMONY. Subsections (4)(a) and (4)(b) do not apply for other purposes,
24 including:

25 (a) treatment for a person born with a medically verifiable disorder of sex development, including:
26 (i) a person born with external biological sex characteristics that are irresolvably ambiguous,
27 including an individual born with 46 XX chromosomes with virilization, an individual born with 46 XY
28 chromosomes with undervirilization, or an individual having both ovarian and testicular tissue; and

1 (ii) a person whom a physician has otherwise diagnosed with a disorder of sexual development in
2 which the physician has determined through genetic or biochemical testing that the person does not have
3 normal sex chromosome structure, sex steroid hormone production, or sex steroid hormone action for a male or
4 female; and and

5 (b) treatment of any infection, injury, disease, or disorder that has been caused or exacerbated by
6 a medical treatment listed in subsection (4)(a) or (4)(b), whether or not the medical treatment was performed in
7 accordance with state and federal law and whether or not funding for the medical treatment is permissible
8 under state and federal law. ~~;~~ OR

9 ~~(c) ANY OTHER CLINICALLY APPROPRIATE OR EVIDENCE-BASED BASIS FOR THE TREATMENT.~~

10 (6) As used in this section, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following definitions
11 apply:

12 (a) "Female" means ~~a member of the human species who, under normal development, has XX~~
13 ~~chromosomes and produces or would produce relatively large, relatively immobile gametes, or eggs, during her~~
14 ~~life cycle and has a reproductive and endocrine system oriented around the production of those gametes. An~~
15 ~~individual who would otherwise fall within this definition, but for a biological or genetic condition, is female for~~
16 ~~the purposes of this section. when used to refer to a natural person, an individual who naturally has, had, will~~
17 ~~have, or would have, but for a congenital anomaly or intentional or unintentional disruption, the reproductive~~
18 ~~system that at some point produces, transports, and utilizes the large gamete, or ova, for fertilization.~~

19 (b) "Gender" ~~means the psychological, behavioral, social, and cultural aspects of being male or~~
20 ~~female, when the term is used alone to refer to a male, female, or the natural differences between a male and~~
21 ~~female:~~

22 (i) ~~may not be considered a synonym for sex;~~

23 (ii) ~~may not be considered a synonym or short-hand expression for gender identity, experienced~~
24 ~~gender, gender expression, or gender role; and~~

25 (iii) ~~does not apply when it is used in conjunction with other words or as an adjective to modify~~
26 ~~other words, or when context or explicit definition in preexisting state law, administrative rules, or guidelines~~
27 ~~indicate otherwise.~~

28 (c) "Health care professional" means a person who is licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized

1 by the laws of this state to administer health care in the ordinary course of the practice of the person's
2 profession.

3 (d) "Male" means ~~a member of the human species who, under normal development, has XY~~
4 ~~chromosomes and produces or would produce small, mobile gametes, or sperm, during his life cycle and has a~~
5 ~~reproductive and endocrine system oriented around the production of those gametes. An individual who would~~
6 ~~otherwise fall within this definition, but for a biological or genetic condition, is male for the purposes of this~~
7 ~~section, when the term is used to refer to a natural person, an individual who naturally has, had, will have, or~~
8 ~~would have, but for a congenital anomaly or intentional or unintentional disruption, the reproductive system that~~
9 ~~at some point produces, transports, and utilizes the small gamete, or sperm, for fertilization.~~

10 (e) "Physician" means a person who is licensed to practice medicine in this state.

11 (f) "Sex" means ~~the organization of body parts and gametes for reproduction in human beings and~~
12 ~~other organisms. In human beings, there are exactly two sexes, male and female, with two corresponding types~~
13 ~~of gametes. The sexes are determined by the biological and genetic indication of male or female, including sex~~
14 ~~chromosomes, naturally occurring sex chromosomes, gonads, and nonambiguous internal and external~~
15 ~~genitalia present at birth, without regard to an individual's psychological, behavioral, social, cultural, chosen, or~~
16 ~~subjective experience of gender whether someone is male or female, which is distinguished based on the type~~
17 ~~of gamete, sperm or eggs, they are capable of or expected to produce, as dictated by their primary sexual~~
18 ~~anatomy. Because there are only two types of gametes, sperm and ova, with two corresponding reproductive~~
19 ~~systems, there are only two sexes: male and female. An individual's sex is rooted in reproductive anatomy and~~
20 ~~is in no way influenced or defined by one's psychological state, behavior, expression, or personal identity.~~

21

22 **SECTION 2. SECTION 27-2-205, MCA, IS AMENDED TO READ:**

23 **"27-2-205. — Actions for medical malpractice. (1) Action in tort or contract for injury or death against a**
24 **physician or surgeon, physician assistant, dentist, dental hygienist, registered nurse, advanced practice**
25 **registered nurse, nursing home or hospital administrator, dispensing optician, optometrist, licensed physical**
26 **therapist, podiatrist, psychologist, osteopath, chiropractor, clinical laboratory bioanalyst, clinical laboratory**
27 **technologist, pharmacist, veterinarian, a licensed hospital or long-term care facility, or licensed medical**
28 **professional corporation, based upon alleged professional negligence or for rendering professional services**

1 ~~without consent or for an act, error, or omission, must, except as provided in subsection subsections (2) and~~
 2 ~~(3), be commenced within 2 years after the date of injury or within 2 years after the plaintiff discovers or through~~
 3 ~~the use of reasonable diligence should have discovered the injury, whichever occurs last, but in no case may~~
 4 ~~an action be commenced after 5 years from the date of injury. However, this time limitation is tolled for any~~
 5 ~~period during which there has been a failure to disclose any act, error, or omission upon which an action is~~
 6 ~~based and that is known to the defendant or through the use of reasonable diligence subsequent to the act,~~
 7 ~~error, or omission would have been known to the defendant.~~

8 (2) ~~Notwithstanding the provisions of 27-2-401, in an action for death or injury of a minor who was~~
 9 ~~under the age of 4 on the date of the minor's injury, the period of limitations in subsection (1) begins to run~~
 10 ~~when the minor reaches the minor's eighth birthday or dies, whichever occurs first, and the time for~~
 11 ~~commencement of the action is tolled during any period during which the minor does not reside with a parent or~~
 12 ~~guardian.~~

13 (3) ~~(a) In an action brought for an injury described in [section 1], the time limitation in subsection~~
 14 ~~(1) is tolled until the plaintiff reaches the age of 30 or until the plaintiff discovers both the injury and the causal~~
 15 ~~relationship between the medical treatment and the injury, whichever is later.~~

16 (b) ~~The time limitations in this section and in [section 1] for an injury described in [section 1] do not~~
 17 ~~prohibit a plaintiff from commencing an action before the plaintiff reaches the age of 30."~~

19 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Repealer.** The following section of the Montana Code Annotated is
 20 repealed:

21 50-4-1005. Private cause of action for subsequent harm.

23 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as a new
 24 part in Title 50, chapter 4, and the provisions of Title 50, chapter 4, apply to [section 1].

26 **NEW SECTION. Section 4. Severability.** If a part of [this act] is invalid, all valid parts that are
 27 severable from the invalid part remain in effect. If a part of [this act] is invalid in one or more of its applications,
 28 the part remains in effect in all valid applications that are severable from the invalid applications.

1

2 NEW SECTION. Section 5. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2025.

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- END -

AMENDED