



Initiative 150

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Fiscal Impact Statement

Date: April 9, 2024

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LCS TITLE: DAMAGES INVOLVING CATASTROPHIC INJURY OR WRONGFUL DEATH

Disclaimer. This initial fiscal impact statement has been prepared for an initiative approved for petition circulation by the Secretary of State. If the initiative is placed on the ballot, Legislative Council Staff may revise this estimate for the ballot information booklet (Blue Book) if new information becomes available.

Summary of Measure

The measure allows an injured plaintiff to recover the total amount of damages awarded by a jury or judge without limitation in a claim involving catastrophic injury or wrongful death.

Background

When a person suffers an injury from the actions of another, the person, or plaintiff, may bring a civil suit to recover damages from the action. Under current state law, the amount of damages that may be recovered may be limited to a certain dollar amount. For example, under current law, damages for noneconomic loss or injury cannot exceed \$250,000 unless the case involves medical malpractice or the court finds justification to increase damages up to \$500,000.

State Revenue

By broadening the definition of "catastrophic injury," the measure may increase the number of civil cases filed with the trial courts. Any increase in corresponding revenue is expected to be minimal.

State Expenditures

The measure may minimally increase workload to the trial courts in the Judicial Department if additional cases are brought under the measure's broadened definition.

Effective Date

If approved by voters at the 2024 general election, this measure takes effect upon proclamation of the Governor, no later than 30 days after the official canvass of the vote is completed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Law

Personnel