

SB2889



103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

SB2889

Introduced 1/24/2024, by Sen. Jil Tracy

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

735 ILCS 5/Art. II Pt. 21 heading
735 ILCS 5/2-2101
735 ILCS 5/2-2102
735 ILCS 5/2-2103
735 ILCS 5/2-2104
735 ILCS 5/2-2105
735 ILCS 5/2-2106
735 ILCS 5/2-2106.5
735 ILCS 5/2-2107
735 ILCS 5/2-2108
735 ILCS 5/2-2109

Reenacts and changes various provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure relating to product liability actions that were added by Public Act 89-7, which was held to be void in its entirety by the Illinois Supreme Court in *Best v. Taylor Machine Works*, 179 Ill. 2d 367 (1997). Effective immediately.

LRB103 38054 JRC 68186 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning civil law.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Purpose.

5 (a) The General Assembly finds and declares that:

6 (1) "An Act to amend certain Acts in relation to civil
7 actions, which may be referred to as the Civil Justice
8 Reform Amendments of 1995", Public Act 89-7, approved
9 March 9, 1995, added Part 21 to Article II of the Code of
10 Civil Procedure. Public Act 89-7 also contained other
11 provisions.

12 (2) In *Best v. Taylor Machine Works*, 179 Ill. 2d 367
13 (1997), the Illinois Supreme Court held that Public Act
14 89-7 was void in its entirety.

15 (3) The provisions of Public Act 89-7 adding Part 21
16 to Article II of the Code of Civil Procedure are of vital
17 concern to the people of this State, and legislative
18 action concerning these provisions is necessary.

19 (b) It is the purpose of this Act to reenact the provisions
20 of Public Act 89-7 adding Part 21 to Article II of the Code of
21 Civil Procedure. This Act is intended to remove any questions
22 as to the validity or content of those provisions.

23 (c) This Act is not intended to supersede any other Public
24 Act. The reenacted material is shown as existing text (i.e.,

1 without striking or underscoring) except for the changes made
2 by this Act to Section 2-2109 of the Code of Civil Procedure,
3 which are shown with striking and underscoring.

4 Section 5. The Code of Civil Procedure is amended by
5 reenacting and changing Part 21 of Article II as follows:

6 (735 ILCS 5/Art. II Pt. 21 heading)

7 Part 21. Product Liability

8 (735 ILCS 5/2-2101)

9 Sec. 2-2101. Definitions. For purposes of this Part, the
10 terms listed have the following meanings:

11 "Clear and convincing evidence" means that measure or
12 degree of proof that will produce in the mind of the trier of
13 fact a high degree of certainty as to the truth of the
14 allegations sought to be established. This evidence requires a
15 greater degree of persuasion than is necessary to meet the
16 preponderance of the evidence standard.

17 "Harm" means (i) damage to property other than the product
18 itself; (ii) personal physical injury, illness, or death;
19 (iii) mental anguish or emotional harm to the extent
20 recognized by applicable law; (iv) any loss of consortium or
21 services; or (v) other loss deriving from any type of harm
22 described in item (i), (ii), (iii), or (iv).

23 "Manufacturer" means (i) any person who is engaged in a

1 business to design or formulate and to produce, create, make,
2 or construct any product or component part of a product; (ii) a
3 product seller with respect to all component parts of a
4 product or a component part of a product that is created or
5 affected when, before placing the product in the stream of
6 commerce, the product seller designs or formulates and
7 produces, creates, makes, or constructs an aspect of a product
8 or a component part of a product made by another; or (iii) any
9 product seller not described in (ii) that holds itself out as a
10 manufacturer to the user of the product.

11 "Product liability action" means a civil action brought on
12 any theory against a manufacturer or product seller for harm
13 caused by a product.

14 "Product seller" means a person who, in the course of a
15 business conducted for that purpose, sells, distributes,
16 leases, installs, prepares, blends, packages, labels, markets,
17 repairs, maintains, or otherwise is involved in placing a
18 product in the stream of commerce.

19 (Source: P.A. 89-7, eff. 3-9-95.)

20 (735 ILCS 5/2-2102)

21 Sec. 2-2102. Effect on other laws. Except as may be
22 provided by other laws, any civil action that conforms to the
23 definition of a product liability action as defined in Section
24 2-2101 of this Part shall be governed by the provisions of this
25 Part.

1 (Source: P.A. 89-7, eff. 3-9-95.)

2 (735 ILCS 5/2-2103)

3 Sec. 2-2103. Federal and State standards; presumption. In
4 a product liability action, a product or product component
5 shall be presumed to be reasonably safe if the aspect of the
6 product or product component that allegedly caused the harm
7 was specified or required, or if the aspect is specifically
8 exempted for particular applications or users, by a federal or
9 State statute or regulation promulgated by an agency of the
10 federal or State government responsible for the safety or use
11 of the product before the product was distributed into the
12 stream of commerce.

13 (Source: P.A. 89-7, eff. 3-9-95.)

14 (735 ILCS 5/2-2104)

15 Sec. 2-2104. No practical and feasible alternative design;
16 presumption. If the design of a product or product component
17 is in issue in a product liability action, the design shall be
18 presumed to be reasonably safe unless, at the time the product
19 left the control of the manufacturer, a practical and
20 technically feasible alternative design was available that
21 would have prevented the harm without significantly impairing
22 the usefulness, desirability, or marketability of the product.
23 An alternative design is practical and feasible if the
24 technical, medical, or scientific knowledge relating to safety

1 of the alternative design was, at the time the product left the
2 control of the manufacturer, available and developed for
3 commercial use and acceptable in the marketplace.

4 (Source: P.A. 89-7, eff. 3-9-95.)

5 (735 ILCS 5/2-2105)

6 Sec. 2-2105. Changes in design or warning;
7 inadmissibility. When measures are taken which, if taken
8 previously, would have made an event less likely to occur,
9 evidence of the subsequent measures is not admissible to prove
10 a defect in a product, negligence, or culpable conduct in
11 connection with the event. In a product liability action
12 brought under any theory or doctrine, if the feasibility of a
13 design change or change in warnings is not controverted, then
14 a subsequent design change or change in warnings shall not be
15 admissible into evidence. This rule does not require the
16 exclusion of evidence of subsequent measures when offered for
17 another purpose such as proving ownership, control, or
18 impeachment.

19 (Source: P.A. 89-7, eff. 3-9-95.)

20 (735 ILCS 5/2-2106)

21 Sec. 2-2106. Provision of written warnings to users of
22 product; nonliability.

23 (a) The warning, instructing, or labeling of a product or
24 specific product component shall be deemed to be adequate if

1 pamphlets, booklets, labels, or other written warnings were
2 provided that gave adequate notice to reasonably anticipated
3 users or knowledgeable intermediaries of the material risks of
4 injury, death, or property damage connected with the
5 reasonably anticipated use of the product and instructions as
6 to the reasonably anticipated uses, applications, or
7 limitations of the product anticipated by the defendant.

8 (b) In the defense of a product liability action,
9 warnings, instructions or labeling shall be deemed to be
10 adequate if the warnings, instructions or labels furnished
11 with the product were in conformity with the generally
12 recognized standards in the industry at the time the product
13 was distributed into the stream of commerce.

14 (c) Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b), a defendant
15 shall not be liable for failure to warn of material risks that
16 were obvious to a reasonably prudent product user and material
17 risks that were a matter of common knowledge to persons in the
18 same position as or similar positions to that of the plaintiff
19 in a product liability action.

20 (d) In any product liability action brought against a
21 manufacturer or product seller for harm allegedly caused by a
22 failure to provide adequate warnings or instructions, a
23 defendant manufacturer or product seller shall not be liable
24 if, at the time the product left the control of the
25 manufacturer, the knowledge of the danger that caused the harm
26 was not reasonably available or obtainable in light of

1 existing scientific, technical, or medical information.

2 (Source: P.A. 89-7, eff. 3-9-95.)

3 (735 ILCS 5/2-2106.5)

4 Sec. 2-2106.5. Inherent characteristics of products;
5 nonliability. In a product liability action, a manufacturer or
6 product seller shall not be liable for harm allegedly caused
7 by a product if the alleged harm was caused by an inherent
8 characteristic of the product which is a generic aspect of the
9 product that cannot be eliminated without substantially
10 compromising the product's usefulness or desirability and
11 which is recognized by the ordinary person with the ordinary
12 knowledge common to the community.

13 (Source: P.A. 89-7, eff. 3-9-95.)

14 (735 ILCS 5/2-2107)

15 Sec. 2-2107. Punitive damages. In a product liability
16 action, punitive damages shall not be awarded against a
17 manufacturer or product seller if the conduct of the defendant
18 manufacturer, seller, or reseller that allegedly caused the
19 harm was approved by or was in compliance with standards set
20 forth in an applicable federal or State statute or in a
21 regulation or other administrative action promulgated by an
22 agency of the federal or State government responsible for the
23 safety or use of the product, which statute or regulation was
24 in effect at the time of the manufacturer's or product

1 seller's alleged misconduct, unless the plaintiff proves by
2 clear and convincing evidence that the manufacturer or product
3 seller intentionally withheld from or misrepresented to
4 Congress, the State legislature, or the relevant federal or
5 State agency material information relative to the safety or
6 use of the product that would or could have resulted in a
7 changed decision relative to the law, standard, or other
8 administrative action.

9 (Source: P.A. 89-7, eff. 3-9-95.)

10 (735 ILCS 5/2-2108)

11 Sec. 2-2108. No cause of action created. Nothing in this
12 Part shall be construed to create a cause of action.

13 (Source: P.A. 89-7, eff. 3-9-95.)

14 (735 ILCS 5/2-2109)

15 Sec. 2-2109. This amendatory Act of the 103rd General
16 Assembly 1995 ~~adding Part 21 to the Code of Civil Procedure~~
17 applies to causes of action accruing on or after its effective
18 date.

19 (Source: P.A. 89-7, eff. 3-9-95.)

20 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
21 becoming law.