



The Florida House of Representatives

Paul Renner
Speaker

NEWS RELEASE

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Tort Reform Legislation Passes the House Floor

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. *(March 17, 2023)* — Today, the Committee Substitute for House Bill 837 passed off the House Floor, showing the Florida House’s commitment to balancing our legal system and addressing the affordability crisis that is exacerbated by Florida’s litigation climate.

“Our legal system must be reformed in a way that allows good claims to move forward, so that those engaging in negligence or misconduct are held accountable,” said Speaker Paul Renner (R-Palm Coast). “I commend Representatives Gregory and Fabricio for passing this transformational legislation and for working to put an end to lawsuit abuse.”

“Our current legal system has created a massive transfer of wealth from Floridians to attorneys which is contributing to the affordability crisis Floridians are needlessly facing,” said bill sponsor Representative Tommy Gregory (R-Lakewood Ranch). “I’m glad to have the support of our Members in passing transformational legislation. The reforms passed today will bring balance to the system by returning to fundamental principles that those most responsible pay for damages they caused and trusting juries to fairly decide cases.”

“While attorneys have a responsibility to passionately represent their clients, some have crudely abused the system for purely financial gain,” said bill sponsor Representative Tom Fabricio (R-Miami Lakes). “The bill we passed today brings balance to the system and protects the legal rights of Floridians to access the courts while reducing the number of frivolous lawsuits. I’m honored to have worked with Speaker Renner and Chair Gregory on this monumental legislation that protects the families and businesses that call Florida home.”

CS/CS/HB 837 will restore balance to Florida's legal system by:

- Significantly limiting fee multiplier incentives for lawyers to collect higher fees when they sue
- Eliminating the ability of attorneys to claim bad faith on the part of insurance companies with vague and meritless claims
- Right-sizing verdicts by allowing a fairer assessment of fault in negligence cases
- Providing juries with more detail and transparency with respect to calculating medical damages in ordinary tort cases.
- Reducing frivolous lawsuits or threats of litigation by eliminating "one-way attorney fees" that incentivize fraudulent or inflated claims
- Streamlining the civil litigation process by reducing the statute of limitations from four years to two years
- Requiring a jury to consider the fault of an intentional wrongdoer in certain negligence cases and incentivizing property owners to implement security measures

For more information on CS/CS/HB 837, visit myfloridahouse.gov.

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