A bill to be entitled An act relating to civil proceedings; designating ss. 69.011-69.081, F.S., as part I of ch. 69, F.S.; creating part II of ch. 69, F.S., relating to litigation financing; creating s. 69.101, F.S.; providing definitions; creating s. 69.103, F.S.; requiring a court's consideration of potential conflicts of interest which may arise from the existence of a litigation financing agreement in specified circumstances; creating s. 69.105, F.S.; prohibiting specified acts by litigation financiers; creating s. 69.107, F.S.; requiring certain disclosures related to litigation financing agreements involving foreign persons, foreign principals, or sovereign wealth funds; providing for discovery related to litigation financing agreements; creating s. 69.109, F.S.; requiring the indemnification of specified fees, costs, and sanctions by a litigation financier in specified circumstances; creating s. 69.111, F.S.; providing that a litigation financing agreement is void in specified circumstances; providing for enforcement of specified violations under the Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act; amending s. 768.28, F.S.; increasing the statutory limits on liability for tort claims against

Page 1 of 20

PCS for CSCSHB 569.DOCX

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the state and its agencies and subdivisions; authorizing a subdivision of the state to settle a claim in excess of the statutory limit without further action by the Legislature regardless of insurance coverage limits; prohibiting an insurance policy from conditioning payment of benefits on the enactment of a claim bill; specifying that the limitations in effect on the date the claim accrues apply to that claim; revising the period within which certain claims must be presented to certain entities; revising exceptions relating to instituting actions on tort claims against the state or one of its agencies or subdivisions; revising the period after which the failure of certain entities to make final disposition of a claim shall be deemed a final denial of the claim for certain purposes; revising the statute of limitations for tort claims against the state or one of its agencies or subdivisions and exceptions thereto; providing a claimant a specific timeframe to file suit; amending s. 768.1382, F.S.; expanding the limitation of liability for electric utilities performing streetlight maintenance to include the affiliates of such electric utilities; reenacting ss. 45.061, 110.504, 111.071, 125.01015, 163.01, 190.043, 213.015, 252.51, 252.89, 252.944, 260.0125, 284.31, 284.38,

Page 2 of 20

PCS for CSCSHB 569.DOCX

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         322.13, 337.19, 341.302, 351.03, 373.1395, 375.251,
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         381.0056, 393.075, 394.9085, 395.1055, 403.706,
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         409.175, 409.993, 420.504, 420.507, 455.221, 455.32,
         456.009, 456.076, 471.038, 472.006, 497.167, 513.118,
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         548.046, 556.106, 589.19, 627.7491, 723.0611, 760.11,
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         766.1115, 766.112, 768.1355, 768.1382, 768.295,
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         944.713, 946.5026, 946.514, 961.06, 1002.33, 1002.333,
         1002.34, 1002.351, 1002.37, 1002.55, 1002.83, 1002.88,
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         1006.24, and 1006.261, F.S., to incorporate the
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         amendments made to s. 768.28, F.S., in references
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         thereto; providing severability; providing
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         applicability; providing an effective date.
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    Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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         Section 1. Sections 69.011, 69.021, 69.031, 69.041,
    69.051, 69.061, 69.071, and 69.081, Florida Statutes, are
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    designated as part I of chapter 69, Florida Statutes, and
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    entitled "General Provisions."
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         Section 2. Part II of chapter 69, Florida Statutes,
    consisting of ss. 69.101, 69.103, 69.105, 69.107, 69.109, and
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    69.111, Florida Statutes, is created to read:
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                                  PART II
75
                           LITIGATION FINANCING
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Page 3 of 20

PCS for CSCSHB 569.DOCX

76	69.101 Definitions.—As used in this part, the term:
77	(1) "Foreign person" means a person or an entity that is
78	<pre>not:</pre>
79	(a) A citizen of the United States;
80	(b) An alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence in
81	the United States;
82	(c) An unincorporated association, a majority of members
83	of which are citizens of the United States or aliens lawfully
84	admitted for permanent residence in the United States; or
85	(d) A corporation that is incorporated in the United
86	States.
87	(2) "Foreign principal" means:
88	(a) The government or a government official of any country
89	other than the United States;
90	(b) A political subdivision or political party of a
91	country other than the United States; or
92	(c) A partnership, association, corporation, organization,
93	or other combination of persons organized under the laws of or
94	having its principal place of business in a country other than
95	the United States whose shares or other ownership interest is
96	owned by the government or a government official of a country
97	other than the United States or owned by a political subdivision
98	or political party of a country other than the United States.
99	(3) "Health care practitioner" has the same meaning as
100	provided in s. 456.001.

Page 4 of 20

PCS for CSCSHB 569.DOCX

- (4) "Litigation financier" means a person engaged in the business of providing litigation financing.
- (5) "Litigation financing agreement" or "litigation financing" means a transaction in which a litigation financier agrees to provide financing to a person who is a party to or counsel of record for a civil action, administrative proceeding, claim, or other legal proceeding in exchange for a right to receive payment, which right is contingent in any respect on the outcome of such action, claim, or proceeding or on the outcome of any matter within a portfolio that includes such action, claim, or proceeding and involves the same counsel or affiliated counsel. However, the terms do not apply to:
- (a) An agreement wherein funds are provided for or to a party to a civil action, administrative proceeding, claim, or other legal proceeding for such person's use in paying his or her costs of living or other personal or familial expenses during the pendency of such action, claim, or proceeding and where such funds are not used to finance any litigation or other legal costs.
- (b) An agreement wherein an attorney consents to provide legal services on a contingency fee basis or to advance his or her client's legal costs, and where such services or costs are provided by the attorney in accordance with the Florida Rules of Professional Conduct.
 - (c) An entity with a preexisting contractual obligation to

Page 5 of 20

PCS for CSCSHB 569.DOCX

indemnify or defend a party to a civil action, administrative proceeding, claim, or other legal proceeding.

- (d) A health insurer that has paid, or is obligated to pay, any sums for health care for an injured person under the terms of a health insurance plan or agreement.
- (e) The repayment of a financial institution, as defined in s. 655.005, for loans made directly to a party to a civil action, administrative proceeding, claim, or other legal proceeding or such party's attorney when repayment of the loan is not contingent upon the outcome of such action, claim, or proceeding or on the outcome of any matter within a portfolio that includes such action, claim, or proceeding and involves the same counsel or affiliated counsel.
- (f) Funding provided to a nonprofit organization, if the nonprofit organization uses the funding to seek only injunctive or equitable relief, whether as a party or on behalf of a client or member of the organization, and irrespective of whether the nonprofit organization seeks an award of costs or attorney fees in providing pro bono representation.
- (g) Funding provided by a nonprofit organization exempt from federal income tax under s. 501(c)(3) of the United States

 Internal Revenue Code, by grant or otherwise, to support the pursuit of pro bono, no-cost litigation.
- (6) "National security interests" means those interests relating to the national defense, foreign intelligence and

Page 6 of 20

PCS for CSCSHB 569.DOCX

counterintelligence, international and domestic security, and foreign relations.

- (7) "Proprietary information" means information developed, created, or discovered by a person, or which became known by or was conveyed to the person, which has commercial value in the person's business. The term includes, but is not limited to, domain names, trade secrets, copyrights, ideas, techniques, inventions, regardless of whether patentable, and other information of any type relating to designs, configurations, documentation, recorded data, schematics, circuits, mask works, layouts, source code, object code, master works, master databases, algorithms, flow charts, formulae, works of authorship, mechanisms, research, manufacture, improvements, assembly, installation, intellectual property including patents and patent applications, and information concerning the person's actual or anticipated business, research, or development or received in confidence by or for the person from any other source.
- (8) "Sovereign wealth fund" means an investment fund owned or controlled by a foreign principal or an agent thereof.
- 69.103 Litigation financing agreement; representation of client interests.—A court may take the existence of a litigation financing agreement into account:
- (1) In a class action lawsuit brought in the courts of this state when determining whether a class representative or

Page 7 of 20

PCS for CSCSHB 569.DOCX

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class counsel would adequately and fairly represent the interests of the class.

- (2) In actions involving a common question of law or fact pending before the court which may be or have been consolidated when determining whether the lead counsel or any co-lead counsel would adequately and fairly represent the interests of the parties to such actions.
 - 69.105 Prohibited conduct.—A litigation financier may not:
- (1) Direct, or make any decisions with respect to, the course of any civil action, administrative proceeding, claim, or other legal proceeding for which the litigation financier has provided financing, or any settlement or other disposition thereof. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to, decisions in appointing or changing counsel, choice or use of expert witnesses, and litigation strategy. All rights to make decisions with respect to the course and settlement or other disposition of the subject civil action, administrative proceeding, claim, or other legal proceeding remain solely with the parties to such action, claim, or proceeding and their counsel of record.
- (2) Contract for or receive, whether directly or indirectly, a larger share of the proceeds of a civil action, administrative proceeding, claim, or other legal proceeding financed by a litigation financing agreement than the share of the proceeds collectively recovered by the plaintiffs to any

Page 8 of 20

PCS for CSCSHB 569.DOCX

such action, claim, or proceeding after the payment of	any
attorney food and costs and in connection to such act	ion
attorney fees and costs owed in connection to such act	1011,
claim, or proceeding.	

- (3) Assign or securitize a litigation financing agreement in whole or in part.
- (4) Be assigned rights to or in a civil action, administrative proceeding, claim, or other legal proceeding for which the litigation financier provided financing, other than the right to receive a share of the proceeds of such action, claim, or proceeding pursuant to the litigation financing agreement.
 - 69.107 Required disclosures; discovery obligations.-
- (1)(a) A party to a civil action, administrative proceeding, claim, or other legal proceeding, or such party's counsel of record, must, except as otherwise stipulated to by the parties to such action, claim, or proceeding, or as otherwise ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction, disclose as prescribed in paragraph (b) the name, address, and citizenship or country of incorporation or registration of any foreign person, foreign principal, or sovereign wealth fund that, with respect to the action, claim, or proceeding:
- 1. Obtained or will obtain a right to receive any payment that is contingent in any respect on the outcome of such civil action, administrative proceeding, claim, or other legal proceeding, or on the outcome of any matter within a portfolio

Page 9 of 20

PCS for CSCSHB 569.DOCX

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226	that includes such civil action,	administrative proceeding,
227	claim, or other legal proceeding	and involves the same counsel
228	or affiliated counsel;	

- 2. Provided or will provide funds, whether directly or indirectly, which funds have been or will be used to satisfy any term of a litigation financing agreement into which the party or the party's counsel of record has entered to finance such civil action, administrative proceeding, claim, or other legal proceeding; or
- 3. Has received or is entitled to receive proprietary information or information affecting national security interests obtained as a result of the financing of such civil action, administrative proceeding, claim, or other legal proceeding by a litigation financing agreement entered into by the party or the party's counsel of record.
- (b) The disclosures required in paragraph (a) must be made to the following persons:
- 1. All parties to the civil action, administrative proceeding, claim, or other legal proceeding.
- 2. The court, agency, or tribunal in which the civil action, administrative proceeding, claim, or other legal proceeding is pending.
- 3. Any known person, including an insurer, with a preexisting contractual obligation to indemnify or defend a party to the civil action, administrative proceeding, claim, or

Page 10 of 20

PCS for CSCSHB 569.DOCX

251 other legal proceeding.

- 4. The Department of Financial Services.
- 5. The Office of the Attorney General.
- (2) The fact of the existence of any litigation financing agreement that is subject to any of the provisions of subsection (1), and the identities of all parties to such agreement, are discoverable in any civil action, administrative proceeding, claim, or other legal proceeding financed by such an agreement, unless the court, for good cause shown, determines otherwise.
- obligations. Thus, when a party to a civil action, administrative proceeding, claim, or other legal proceeding, or his or her counsel of record, obtains information on the involvement of a foreign person, foreign principal, or sovereign wealth fund after the commencement of such action, claim, or proceeding, which involvement would require disclosure under this section, the party or attorney has 30 days after the date of obtaining the information to comply with the disclosure obligations established herein.
- 69.109 Indemnification by litigation financiers.—In any litigation financing agreement, the litigation financier must agree to indemnify the plaintiffs to the civil action, administrative proceeding, claim, or other legal proceeding funded in the agreement and such plaintiffs' counsel of record against any adverse costs, attorney fees, damages, or sanctions

Page 11 of 20

PCS for CSCSHB 569.DOCX

that may be ordered or awarded against such persons in such action, claim, or proceeding. However, indemnification is not required for those adverse costs, attorney fees, damages, or sanctions that the litigation financier can show resulted from the intentional misconduct of such plaintiffs or plaintiffs' counsel of record.

69.111 Violations; enforcement.—

- (1) A litigation financing agreement executed in violation of this part is void and unenforceable.
- (2) A violation of s. 69.105 or s. 69.109 by a litigation financier is a deceptive and unfair trade practice actionable under part II of chapter 501.
- Section 3. Subsection (5), paragraphs (a) and (d) of subsection (6), and subsection (14) of section 768.28, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
- 768.28 Waiver of sovereign immunity in tort actions; recovery limits; civil liability for damages caused during a riot; limitation on attorney fees; statute of limitations; exclusions; indemnification; risk management programs.—
- (5)(a) The state and its agencies and subdivisions shall be liable for tort claims in the same manner and to the same extent as a private individual under like circumstances, but liability shall not include punitive damages or interest for the period before judgment. Neither the state nor its agencies or subdivisions shall be liable to pay a claim or a judgment by any

Page 12 of 20

PCS for CSCSHB 569.DOCX

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one person which exceeds the sum of \$400,000\$ \$200,000\$ or any claim or judgment, or portions thereof, which, when totaled with all other claims or judgments paid by the state or its agencies or subdivisions arising out of the same incident or occurrence, exceeds the sum of <math>\$600,000\$ \$300,000\$. However, a judgment or judgments may be claimed and rendered in excess of these amounts and may be settled and paid pursuant to this act up to <math>\$400,000\$ or \$600,000\$ \$200,000 or \$300,000\$, as the case may be; and that portion of the judgment that exceeds these amounts may be reported to the Legislature, and but may be paid in part or in whole only by further act of the Legislature.

- (b) Notwithstanding the limited waiver of sovereign immunity provided in paragraph (a):
- 1. herein, The state or an agency or subdivision thereof may agree, within the limits of insurance coverage provided, to settle a claim made or a judgment rendered against it in excess of the waiver provided in paragraph (a) without further action by the Legislature.
- 2. A subdivision of the state may agree to settle a claim made or a judgment rendered against it in excess of the waiver provided in paragraph (a) without further action by the Legislature.

<u>However</u>, but the state or <u>an</u> agency or subdivision thereof shall not be deemed to have waived any defense of sovereign immunity

Page 13 of 20

PCS for CSCSHB 569.DOCX

or to have increased the limits of its liability as a result of its obtaining insurance coverage for tortious acts in excess of the \$200,000 or \$300,000 waiver provided in paragraph (a). An insurance policy may not condition the payment of benefits, in whole or in part, on the enactment of a claim bill above.

- (c) The limitations of liability set forth in this subsection shall apply to the state and its agencies and subdivisions whether or not the state or its agencies or subdivisions possessed sovereign immunity before July 1, 1974.
- (d)-(b) A municipality has a duty to allow the municipal law enforcement agency to respond appropriately to protect persons and property during a riot or an unlawful assembly based on the availability of adequate equipment to its municipal law enforcement officers and relevant state and federal laws. If the governing body of a municipality or a person authorized by the governing body of the municipality breaches that duty, the municipality is civilly liable for any damages, including damages arising from personal injury, wrongful death, or property damages proximately caused by the municipality's breach of duty. The sovereign immunity recovery limits in paragraph (a) do not apply to an action under this paragraph.
- (e) When determining liability limits for a claim, the limitations of liability in effect on the date the claim accrues shall apply to the claim.
 - (6)(a) An action may not be instituted on a claim against

Page 14 of 20

PCS for CSCSHB 569.DOCX

the state or one of its agencies or subdivisions unless the claimant presents the claim in writing to the appropriate agency, and also, except as to any claim against a municipality, county, or the Florida Space Authority, presents such claim in writing to the Department of Financial Services, within 18 months 3 years after such claim accrues and the Department of Financial Services or the appropriate agency denies the claim in writing; except that, if:

- 1. Such claim is for contribution pursuant to s. 768.31, it must be so presented within 6 months after the judgment against the tortfeasor seeking contribution has become final by lapse of time for appeal or after appellate review or, if there is no such judgment, within 6 months after the tortfeasor seeking contribution has either discharged the common liability by payment or agreed, while the action is pending against her or him, to discharge the common liability; or
- 2. Such action arises from a violation of s. 794.011 involving a victim who was younger than the age of 16 at the time of the act, the claimant must present the claim in writing within 13 years after the victim reaches the age of majority. This subparagraph applies to any such action other than one which would have been time barred on or before July 1, 2010, under s. 95.11(9) is for wrongful death, the claimant must present the claim in writing to the Department of Financial Services within 2 years after the claim accrues.

Page 15 of 20

PCS for CSCSHB 569.DOCX

For purposes of this section, complete, accurate, and timely compliance with the requirements of paragraph (c) shall occur prior to settlement payment, close of discovery or commencement of trial, whichever is sooner; provided the ability to plead setoff is not precluded by the delay. This setoff shall apply only against that part of the settlement or judgment payable to the claimant, minus claimant's reasonable attorney's fees and costs. Incomplete or inaccurate disclosure of unpaid adjudicated claims due the state, its agency, officer, or subdivision, may be excused by the court upon a showing by the preponderance of the evidence of the claimant's lack of knowledge of an adjudicated claim and reasonable inquiry by, or on behalf of, the claimant to obtain the information from public records. Unless the appropriate agency had actual notice of the information required to be disclosed by paragraph (c) in time to assert a setoff, an unexcused failure to disclose shall, upon hearing and order of court, cause the claimant to be liable for double the original undisclosed judgment and, upon further motion, the court shall enter judgment for the agency in that amount. Except as provided otherwise in this subsection, the failure of the Department of Financial Services or the appropriate agency to make final disposition of a claim within 4 6 months after it is filed shall be deemed a final denial of the claim for purposes of this section. For purposes of this subsection, in medical malpractice actions and in wrongful death

Page 16 of 20

PCS for CSCSHB 569.DOCX

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actions, the failure of the Department of Financial Services or the appropriate agency to make final disposition of a claim within 90 days after it is filed shall be deemed a final denial of the claim. The statute of limitations for medical malpractice actions and wrongful death actions is tolled as to all prospective defendants for the period of time taken by the Department of Financial Services or the appropriate agency to deny the claim. The provisions of this subsection do not apply to such claims as may be asserted by counterclaim pursuant to s. 768.14.

- (14) Every claim against the state or one of its agencies or subdivisions for damages for a negligent or wrongful act or omission pursuant to this section shall be forever barred unless the civil action is commenced by filing a complaint in the court of appropriate jurisdiction:
 - (a) Within 2 4 years for an action founded on negligence.
- (b) Within the limitations provided in s. 768.31(4) for an action for contribution.
 - (c) Within the limitations provided in s. 95.11(4) for an action for damages arising from medical malpractice or wrongful death.
 - (d) Within 15 years after the victim reaches the age of majority for any action arising from acts constituting a violation of s. 794.011 involving a victim who was younger than the age of 16 at the time of the act. This paragraph applies to

Page 17 of 20

PCS for CSCSHB 569.DOCX

any such action other than one which would have been time barred on or before July 1, 2010, under s. 95.11(9).

- (e) Within 4 years for any other action not specified in this subsection after such claim accrues; except that an action for contribution must be commenced within the limitations provided in s. 768.31(4), and an action for damages arising from medical malpractice or wrongful death must be commenced within the limitations for such actions in s. 95.11(4).
- Section 4. Paragraphs (d) and (e) of subsection (1) of section 768.1382, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
- 768.1382 Streetlights, security lights, and other similar illumination; limitation on liability.—
 - (1) As used in this section, the term:
- (d) "Streetlight" means any streetlight, any outdoor security light, or any outdoor area light, including public safety equipment attached to any such lights, that is owned or maintained by or for a streetlight provider. The term "streetlight" does not include any customer-owned or customer-maintained streetlights, outdoor security lights, or outdoor area lights of any type, regardless of their location.
- (e) "Streetlight provider" means the state or any of the state's officers, agencies, or instrumentalities, any political subdivision as defined in s. 1.01, any public utility as defined in s. 366.02(8), or any electric utility as defined in s. 366.02(4) and affiliates of an electric utility, regardless of

Page 18 of 20

PCS for CSCSHB 569.DOCX

151	whether the electric utility or its affiliates are providing
152	streetlight services inside or outside of its regulated
153	territory.
154	Section 5. <u>Sections 45.061, 110.504, 111.071, 125.01015,</u>
155	163.01, 190.043, 213.015, 252.51, 252.89, 252.944, 260.0125,
156	284.31, 284.38, 322.13, 337.19, 341.302, 351.03, 373.1395,
157	375.251, 381.0056, 393.075, 394.9085, 395.1055, 403.706,
158	409.175, 409.993, 420.504, 420.507, 455.221, 455.32, 456.009,
159	456.076, 471.038, 472.006, 497.167, 513.118, 548.046, 556.106,
160	<u>589.19, 627.7491, 723.0611, 760.11, 766.1115, 766.112, 768.1355,</u>
61	768.1382, 768.295, 944.713, 946.5026, 946.514, 961.06, 1002.33,
162	1002.333, 1002.34, 1002.351, 1002.37, 1002.55, 1002.83, 1002.88,
163	1006.24, and 1006.261, Florida Statutes, are reenacted for the
164	purpose of incorporating the amendments made by this act to s.
165	768.28, Florida Statutes, in references thereto.
166	Section 6. If any provision of this act or its application
167	to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity
168	does not affect other provisions or applications of the act
169	which can be given effect without the invalid provision or
170	application, and to this end the provisions of this act are
171	severable.
172	Section 7. The disclosure requirements in s. 69.107,
173	Florida Statutes, as created by this act, apply to any civil
174	action, administrative proceeding, claim, or other legal
175	proceeding pending or commenced on or after October 1, 2024. Any

Page 19 of 20

PCS for CSCSHB 569.DOCX

party to or counsel of record for a civil action, administrative		
proceeding, claim, or other legal proceeding pending on October		
1, 2024, who would have been required to make a disclosure under		
s. 69.107, Florida Statutes, had it been in effect at the time		
the relevant action occurred must make the disclosure under that		
section within 30 days after October 1, 2024.		
Section 8. Except as otherwise provided herein, sections 1		
and 2 of this act apply to a litigation financing agreement		

Section 9. Sections 3 and 4 of this act apply to claims accruing on or after October 1, 2024.

Section 10. This act shall take effect October 1, 2024.

entered into on or after October 1, 2024.

Page 20 of 20

PCS for CSCSHB 569.DOCX

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