

HOUSE BILL No. 1975

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 34-13-3.

Synopsis: State liability for vehicle-deer collisions. Provides that the state is strictly liable for actual damage to a vehicle and medical expenses caused by the collision of a deer and a vehicle on a highway.

Effective: July 1, 2003.

Friend, Ulmer

January 23, 2003, read first time and referred to Committee on Appointments and Claims.

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First Regular Session 113th General Assembly (2003)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2002 Regular or Special Session of the General Assembly.

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HOUSE BILL No. 1975



A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning civil procedure.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 34-13-3-3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.1-2002,
2 SECTION 144, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
3 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2003]: Sec. 3. **Except as provided in section**
4 **3.5 of this chapter**, a governmental entity or an employee acting within
5 the scope of the employee's employment is not liable if a loss results
6 from the following:

- 7 (1) The natural condition of unimproved property.
- 8 (2) The condition of a reservoir, dam, canal, conduit, drain, or
9 similar structure when used by a person for a purpose that is not
10 foreseeable.
- 11 (3) The temporary condition of a public thoroughfare or extreme
12 sport area that results from weather.
- 13 (4) The condition of an unpaved road, trail, or footpath, the
14 purpose of which is to provide access to a recreation or scenic
15 area.
- 16 (5) The design, construction, control, operation, or normal
17 condition of an extreme sport area, if all entrances to the extreme



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- sport area are marked with:
 - (A) a set of rules governing the use of the extreme sport area;
 - (B) a warning concerning the hazards and dangers associated with the use of the extreme sport area; and
 - (C) a statement that the extreme sport area may be used only by persons operating extreme sport equipment.
- This subdivision shall not be construed to relieve a governmental entity from liability for the continuing duty to maintain extreme sports areas in a reasonably safe condition.
- (6) The initiation of a judicial or an administrative proceeding.
- (7) The performance of a discretionary function; however, the provision of medical or optical care as provided in IC 34-6-2-38 shall be considered as a ministerial act.
- (8) The adoption and enforcement of or failure to adopt or enforce a law (including rules and regulations), unless the act of enforcement constitutes false arrest or false imprisonment.
- (9) An act or omission performed in good faith and without malice under the apparent authority of a statute which is invalid if the employee would not have been liable had the statute been valid.
- (10) The act or omission of anyone other than the governmental entity or the governmental entity's employee.
- (11) The issuance, denial, suspension, or revocation of, or failure or refusal to issue, deny, suspend, or revoke, any permit, license, certificate, approval, order, or similar authorization, where the authority is discretionary under the law.
- (12) Failure to make an inspection, or making an inadequate or negligent inspection, of any property, other than the property of a governmental entity, to determine whether the property complied with or violates any law or contains a hazard to health or safety.
- (13) Entry upon any property where the entry is expressly or impliedly authorized by law.
- (14) Misrepresentation if unintentional.
- (15) Theft by another person of money in the employee's official custody, unless the loss was sustained because of the employee's own negligent or wrongful act or omission.
- (16) Injury to the property of a person under the jurisdiction and control of the department of correction if the person has not exhausted the administrative remedies and procedures provided by section 7 of this chapter.
- (17) Injury to the person or property of a person under supervision

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1 of a governmental entity and who is:

2 (A) on probation; or

3 (B) assigned to an alcohol and drug services program under
4 IC 12-23, a minimum security release program under
5 IC 11-10-8, or a community corrections program under
6 IC 11-12.

7 (18) Design of a highway (as defined in IC 9-13-2-73) if the
8 claimed loss occurs at least twenty (20) years after the public
9 highway was designed or substantially redesigned; except that
10 this subdivision shall not be construed to relieve a responsible
11 governmental entity from the continuing duty to provide and
12 maintain public highways in a reasonably safe condition.

13 (19) Development, adoption, implementation, operation,
14 maintenance, or use of an enhanced emergency communication
15 system.

16 (20) Injury to a student or a student's property by an employee of
17 a school corporation if the employee is acting reasonably under a
18 discipline policy adopted under IC 20-8.1-5.1-7(b).

19 (21) An error resulting from or caused by a failure to recognize
20 the year 1999, 2000, or a subsequent year, including an incorrect
21 date or incorrect mechanical or electronic interpretation of a date,
22 that is produced, calculated, or generated by:

23 (A) a computer;

24 (B) an information system; or

25 (C) equipment using microchips;

26 that is owned or operated by a governmental entity. However, this
27 subdivision does not apply to acts or omissions amounting to
28 gross negligence, willful or wanton misconduct, or intentional
29 misconduct. For purposes of this subdivision, evidence of gross
30 negligence may be established by a party by showing failure of a
31 governmental entity to undertake an effort to review, analyze,
32 remediate, and test its electronic information systems or by
33 showing failure of a governmental entity to abate, upon notice, an
34 electronic information system error that caused damage or loss.
35 However, this subdivision expires June 30, 2003.

36 (22) An act or omission performed in good faith under the
37 apparent authority of a court order described in IC 35-46-1-15.1
38 that is invalid, including an arrest or imprisonment related to the
39 enforcement of the court order, if the governmental entity or
40 employee would not have been liable had the court order been
41 valid.

42 SECTION 2. IC 34-13-3-3.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE

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1 AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
2 1, 2003]: **Sec. 3.5. (a) The state is strictly liable for:**
3 **(1) damage to a self-propelled vehicle that is; or**
4 **(2) medical expenses that are;**
5 **caused by the collision of a self-propelled vehicle and a wild deer**
6 **on a highway (as defined in IC 9-13-2-73).**
7 **(b) The state is not liable for punitive damages under this**
8 **section.**

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