

A bill for an act

relating to claims against the state; clarifying provisions governing the I-35W bridge collapse survivor compensation process; specifying indemnification rights; limiting access to certain records of the special master panel and specifying testimonial privileges; clarifying prohibition on third-party subrogation or recovery claims; amending Minnesota Statutes 2008, sections 3.7393, subdivisions 3, 6, by adding a subdivision; 3.7394, subdivision 4.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 3.7393, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Records.** (a) Records of the panel related to a claim filed by a survivor, an offer of settlement, or an acceptance or rejection of an offer are not accessible to the public except for:

(1) the name of the survivor; and

(2) the terms of any written settlement agreement between the survivor and the state.

(b) Records created by a member of the panel related to the member's service as a member of the panel, including, but not limited to, any notes, are not subject to the Minnesota Official Records Act or the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, except for a written settlement agreement between the survivor and the state and documentation of salaries, expenses, and administrative costs under this section.

(c) Records created by a member of the panel related to the member's service as a member of the panel are not discoverable in any civil or administrative proceeding except a record relating to any statement or conduct that may constitute a crime.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 3.7393, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

Subd. 6. **Immunity; indemnification.** (a) Members of the panel and employees and consultants acting under the direction of the panel are absolutely immune from civil liability for any act or omission occurring within the scope of the performance of their duties under this section.

(b) Members of the panel, employees, and consultants acting under the direction of the panel are employees of the state for purposes of section 3.736, subdivision 9.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 3.7393, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 6a. **Testimonial privilege.** A member of the panel must not testify in any civil or administrative proceeding regarding any matter involving or arising out of the member's service as a member of the panel, except as to a statement or conduct that may constitute a crime.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 3.7394, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. **No third-party subrogation or recovery.** (a) Notwithstanding any statutory or common law or agreement to the contrary, a person who ~~has paid~~ pays benefits or compensation to or on behalf of a survivor does not have a subrogation or other right, including, but not limited to, any rights otherwise provided under sections 65B.53 and 176.061, to recover those benefits or compensation by making a claim against the state, a municipality or their employees, or by making a claim, or recovering from payments made, under section 3.7393 or from the emergency relief fund.

(b) Following a settlement agreement under section 3.7393, a person who believes that the state cannot constitutionally prohibit assertion of a subrogation or other claim described in paragraph (a) and who is claiming ~~claims such~~ a subrogation or other interest against the state, a municipality or their employees, or against the amount to be paid by the state under section 3.7393 or any payment made from the emergency relief fund has 40 days after the settlement agreement was entered into to provide notice to the state and the survivor of the person's intent to assert that interest, during which time the commissioner of finance must not make the payment under section 3.7393. The subrogation or other claim is waived if the notice is not provided by the deadline. If no notice is received by the deadline, the commissioner of finance shall make the payment. If a notice of claim is received, the commissioner shall withhold the payment until the ~~subrogee~~ person abandons or waives the subrogation or other claim.

Sec. 5. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

3.1 This act is effective retroactively from May 8, 2008.