

911--A

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

January 7, 2015

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Introduced by Sens. LIBOUS, ADDABBO, AMEDORE, AVELLA, BOYLE, BRESLIN, DeFRANCISCO, DILAN, ESPAILLAT, FUNKE, GALLIVAN, GIANARIS, HAMILTON, HASSELL-THOMPSON, HOYLMAN, KENNEDY, KRUEGER, LANZA, LARKIN, LATIMER, MONTGOMERY, PANEPINTO, PARKER, PERALTA, PERKINS, RANZENHOFER, RITCHIE, ROBACH, SANDERS, SERRANO, SQUADRON, STAVISKY, VALESKY, YOUNG -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Codes -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the civil practice law and rules, in relation to accrual of causes of action for medical, dental and podiatric malpractice

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     Section 1. The opening paragraph of subdivision (g) of section 203 of  
2     the civil practice law and rules is designated paragraph 1 and a new  
3     paragraph 2 is added to read as follows:  
4     2. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW TO THE CONTRARY, FOR THE  
5     PURPOSES OF SECTIONS FIFTY-E AND FIFTY-I OF THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW,  
6     SECTION TEN OF THE COURT OF CLAIMS ACT, AND THE PROVISIONS OF ANY OTHER  
7     LAW PERTAINING TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF AN ACTION OR SPECIAL PROCEEDING,  
8     OR TO THE FILING OF A NOTICE OF CLAIM AS A CONDITION PRECEDENT TO  
9     COMMENCEMENT OF AN ACTION OR SPECIAL PROCEEDING WITHIN A SPECIFIED TIME  
10    PERIOD, THE PERIOD IN WHICH TO COMMENCE AN ACTION OR PROCEEDING OR TO  
11    FILE SUCH NOTICE OF CLAIM FOR MEDICAL, DENTAL OR PODIATRIC MALPRACTICE  
12    SHALL NOT BEGIN TO RUN UNTIL THE LATER OF EITHER: (A) WHEN ONE KNOWS OR  
13    REASONABLY SHOULD HAVE KNOWN OF THE ALLEGED NEGLIGENT ACT OR OMISSION  
14    AND KNOWS OR REASONABLY SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT SUCH NEGLIGENT ACT OR  
15    OMISSION HAS CAUSED AN INJURY; OR (B) THE DATE OF THE LAST TREATMENT  
16    WHERE THERE IS CONTINUOUS TREATMENT FOR THE SAME ILLNESS, INJURY OR  
17    CONDITION WHICH GAVE RISE TO THE ACCRUAL OF AN ACTION. HOWEVER, SUCH  
18    ACTION SHALL COMMENCE NO LATER THAN TEN YEARS FROM THE ACT, OMISSION OR  
19    FAILURE COMPLAINED OF OR LAST TREATMENT WHERE THERE IS CONTINUOUS TREAT-

EXPLANATION--Matter in *ITALICS* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

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MENT FOR THE SAME ILLNESS, INJURY OR CONDITION WHICH GAVE RISE TO THE ACT, OMISSION OR FAILURE; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT WHERE THE ACTION IS BASED UPON THE DISCOVERY OF A FOREIGN OBJECT IN THE BODY OF A PATIENT, THE ACTION MAY BE COMMENCED WITHIN ONE YEAR OF THE DATE OF SUCH DISCOVERY OR OF THE DATE OF DISCOVERY OF FACTS WHICH WOULD REASONABLY LEAD TO SUCH DISCOVERY, WHICHEVER IS EARLIER.

S 2. Section 214-a of the civil practice law and rules, as amended by chapter 485 of the laws of 1986, is amended to read as follows:

S 214-a. Action for medical, dental or podiatric malpractice to be commenced within two years and six months; exceptions. An action for medical, dental or podiatric malpractice must be commenced within two years and six months of the ACCRUAL OF ANY SUCH ACTION. THE ACCRUAL OF AN ACTION OCCURS AT THE LATER OF EITHER (A) WHEN ONE KNOWS OR REASONABLY SHOULD HAVE KNOWN OF THE ALLEGED NEGLIGENT ACT OR OMISSION AND KNOWS OR REASONABLY SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT SUCH NEGLIGENT ACT OR OMISSION HAS CAUSED AN INJURY; OR (B) WITHIN TWO YEARS AND SIX MONTHS OF THE LAST TREATMENT WHERE THERE IS CONTINUOUS TREATMENT FOR THE SAME ILLNESS, INJURY OR CONDITION WHICH GAVE RISE TO THE ACCRUAL OF AN ACTION. HOWEVER, SUCH ACTION SHALL COMMENCE NO LATER THAN TEN YEARS FROM THE act, omission or failure complained of or last treatment where there is continuous treatment for the same illness, injury or condition which gave rise to the said act, omission or failure; provided, however, that where the action is based upon the discovery of a foreign object in the body of the patient, the action may be commenced within one year of the date of such discovery or of the date of discovery of facts which would reasonably lead to such discovery, whichever is earlier. For the purpose of this section the term "continuous treatment" shall not include examinations undertaken at the request of the patient for the sole purpose of ascertaining the state of the patient's condition. For the purpose of this section the term "foreign object" shall not include a chemical compound, fixation device or prosthetic aid or device.

S 3. This act shall take effect immediately.