

HB 1173 -- Product Liability Claims

Sponsor: Riddle

This bill changes the laws regarding product liability claims. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Establishes a statute of limitation on a claim for the recovery of damages arising out of any alleged defect or any failure of a product of six years from the date of the initial purchase or 10 years after the product was manufactured, whichever comes first;
- (2) Creates a complete defense to a claim if the defendant can prove that the plaintiff was under the influence of alcohol or any unlawful drug at the time of injury and the condition of the plaintiff was more than 50% responsible for the injury;
- (3) Prohibits the admission of evidence of any advancements or changes in technical or other knowledge or techniques in design, manufacture, testing, or production of the product in issue from the time it was designed, formulated, tested, manufactured, or sold; and
- (4) Establishes a complete defense against a claim if the product was either substantially altered or modified by a party other than the manufacturer or seller and the alteration or modification was the proximate cause of the injury.