

2020 SPECIAL SESSION I

INTRODUCED

20200688D

SENATE BILL NO. 5099

Offered August 18, 2020

Prefiled August 18, 2020

A BILL to provide immunity from civil claims related to the transmission of or exposure to the COVID-19 virus and use of personal protective equipment; emergency.

Patrons—Vogel and Ruff

Referred to Committee on the Judiciary

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. § 1. A. For the purposes of this act, unless the context requires otherwise:

"Person" includes (i) individuals, corporations, nonprofit corporations, business trusts, estates, trusts, partnerships, limited liability companies, sole proprietorships, associations, and joint ventures; (ii) the Commonwealth, political subdivisions of the Commonwealth, or any locality, or any agent thereof, or any person acting on behalf of the Commonwealth, political subdivisions of the Commonwealth, or any locality; (iii) public and private institutions of higher education, and any employee of either such institution; (iv) local school boards and the governing boards or administrators of private elementary or secondary schools; and (v) any other legal or commercial entity.

"Personal protective equipment" means equipment worn to minimize exposure to the COVID-19 virus and includes gloves, masks, N-95 respirators, eye protection, gowns, aprons, boots or closed-toe work shoes, cleaning detergents, hand sanitizers, and cleaning products.

B. In the absence of gross negligence or willful misconduct, no person shall be liable for any civil cause of action arising from any act or omission alleged to have resulted in the contraction of or exposure to the COVID-19 virus.

C. In the absence of gross negligence or willful misconduct, no person who designs, manufactures, labels, or distributes any personal protective equipment in response to the COVID-19 virus shall be liable for any civil cause of action arising out of the use of such equipment.

D. The provisions of this act shall not limit or abrogate any other defenses or immunities available at law.

E. The provisions of this act shall not apply to claims before the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission seeking benefits payable under the Virginia Workers' Compensation Act (§ 65.2-100 et seq.).

2. That an emergency exists and this act is in force from its passage.

3. That the provisions of this act shall expire two years after the expiration or revocation of all states of emergency declared by the Governor related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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