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Missouri Legislature Overrides Veto of Volunteer Health Services Act

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On September 11, 2013, the Missouri Legislature overruled the Governor's veto of the Volunteer Health Services Act which protects licensed healthcare providers (physicians, dentists, nurses, optometrists, mental health professionals and other state licensed or certified healthcare providers) from liability for civil damages for any act or omission resulting from healthcare services provided within their specialty and without charge, unless the act or omission was the result of a conscious disregard of the ordinary standard of care or willful misconduct. Healthcare providers may be licensed by any state, but if not licensed in Missouri, they may not provide more than 60 days of service in any 90 day period.

Not all volunteer health services are entitled to protection. They must be provided to the patients of a sponsoring organization which arranges for such volunteer services. The sponsoring organization must register with the state, maintain a list of its providers and their licenses, and file quarterly reports identifying the individuals providing the free healthcare services.