

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Version: As introduced

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Subject: Solicitation of accident victims by cappers, runners, and steerers

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Overview

This bill deals with health care providers who use intermediaries called "cappers, runners, and steerers" to seek out and solicit motor vehicle accident victims as patients. This bill follows up on related legislation enacted in 2002 and 2008.

- 1 Unethical practices.** Adds "runners, cappers and steerers," as defined in existing law as amended in section 2 of this bill, to a list of types of persons not permitted to solicit motor vehicle accident victims as patients for a licensed health care provider. Tightens up language to prohibit health care providers from using third parties to solicit business from motor vehicle accident victims. Broadens language that now references only chiropractors. Specifies that a health care provider has no right to collect payment for care provided to an accident victim who was recruited through methods prohibited by this section. Permits an auto insurance company that challenges health provider charges based on an alleged violation of this subdivision to sue in district court or remove an existing lawsuit from conciliation court to district court.
- 2 Definitions.** For purposes of criminal law, strengthens the definition of runners, cappers, and steerers and makes changes consistent with the changes made in section 1 of this bill. (Under current law in subdivision 2 (not amended in this bill) of the statute amended in this section, employing, using, or acting as a runner, capper, or steerer is a felony carrying a penalty of up to three years imprisonment and/or a fine of up to \$6,000.)