

**Bill Summary**  
1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 59<sup>th</sup> Legislature

<b>Bill No.:</b>	<b>SB 887</b>
<b>Version:</b>	<b>INT</b>
<b>Request No.:</b>	<b>1458</b>
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**Bill Analysis**

SB 887 creates the Medical Ethics Defense Act. The measure provides that a medical practitioner, healthcare institution, or healthcare payer has the right not to participate in or pay for any medical procedure or service which violates his, her, or its conscience. Such entities shall not be civilly, criminally, or administratively liable for exercising his, her, or its right of conscience not to participate in or pay for a medical procedure or service. Additionally, a religious institution shall have the right to make employment, staffing, contracting, and admitting privilege decisions consistent with its religious beliefs. No medical practitioner shall be discriminated against in any manner because the medical practitioner provided or is about to provide the Attorney General, any state agency charged with protecting health care rights of conscience, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Civil Rights, or any other federal agency charged with protecting health care rights of conscience information relating to any violation of, or any act or omission the medical practitioner reasonably believes to be a violation of, any provision of this measure. The measure also provides that such persons shall not be discriminated against for disclosing information because of a reasonable belief that the information disclosed evinces a violation of the law, ethical guidelines, or gross mismanagement. Licensing boards may not reprimand, sanction, or revoke or threaten to revoke a license, certificate, or registration of a health care practitioner for engaging in speech or expressive activity protected under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution unless certain conditions outlined in the measure are met. The measure provides that persons who are discriminated against in violation of the provisions of this measure shall be entitled to civil damages.

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