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## **Hospital lawsuit immunity bill clears Idaho House**

A bill to help protect hospitals from lawsuits passed the Idaho House 38-30 a year after a similar measure died in a House committee.

Under the measure, hospitals that use so-called "peer review" to credential their doctors would get more protections from lawsuits arising out of negligence claims.

The bill emerged in the 2010 Legislature after an Idaho Supreme Court decision against St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise.

A patient treated there in 2003 alleged the hospital negligently credentialed one of the doctors who had treated him.

St. Alphonsus insisted it was immune from such lawsuits, but the high court disagreed. After Thursday's vote, the measure now has a good chance of becoming law. It passed the Senate 21-13 last year, before its House Health and Welfare Committee demise.