

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

A N A C T

RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE - PROCEDURE IN PARTICULAR  
ACTIONS - JOINT AND SEVERAL LIABILITY

Introduced By: Senator Marc A. Cote

Date Introduced: March 02, 2017

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

(by request)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 10 of the General Laws entitled "COURTS AND CIVIL  
2 PROCEDURE - PROCEDURE IN PARTICULAR ACTIONS" is hereby amended by adding  
3 thereto the following chapter:

4 CHAPTER 6.1

5 JOINT AND SEVERAL LIABILITY

6 **10-6.1-1. Several liability.**

7 In any action for personal injury, property damage or wrongful death, the liability of a  
8 defendant for damages shall be several only and shall not be joint where the defendant's act or  
9 omission constituted no more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the cause of the damages  
10 sustained by the plaintiff. The defendant shall only be responsible for payment of the amount of  
11 damages, plus the interest thereon, allocated to that defendant in direct proportion to that  
12 defendant's percentage of culpability, and a separate judgment shall be rendered against the  
13 defendant for that amount. To determine the amount of the judgment to be entered against such  
14 defendant, the court shall multiply the total amount of damages sustained by the plaintiff, prior to  
15 any reduction for comparative negligence, if any, by the percentage of the defendant's culpability,  
16 computed interest thereon, and that amount shall be the maximum recoverable against said  
17 defendant.

18 **10-6.1-2. Joint and several liability.**

1           Except as provided in §10-6.1-1 the liability of a defendant shall be joint and several as  
2 heretofore provided by law. Any person held jointly liable under this section shall have a right of  
3 contribution in accordance with the provisions of chapter 6 of title 10.

4           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage and shall apply to all civil actions  
5 filed after passage of this act.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

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1           This act would limit liability of a tortfeasor for damages to several only and not joint if it  
2 is found that the defendant's act or omission constituted no more than twenty-five percent (25%)  
3 of the damages sustained by the plaintiff.

4           This act would take effect upon passage and would apply to all civil actions filed on or  
5 after the effective date of this act.

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