

2014 -- H 7270

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LC003546  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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A N A C T

RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE -- PROCEDURE GENERALLY

Introduced By: Representatives Morgan, Chippendale, Giarrusso, and Costa

Date Introduced: January 30, 2014

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 9-21-10 of the General Laws in Chapter 9-21 entitled "Judgments,  
2 Orders, and Decrees" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3           **9-21-10. Interest in civil actions.** -- (a) In any civil action in which a verdict is rendered  
4 or a decision made for pecuniary damages, there shall be added by the clerk of the court to the  
5 amount of damages interest at the rate of twelve percent (12%) per annum thereon from the date  
6 ~~of the cause of action accrued~~ the filing of the civil action, which shall be included in the  
7 judgment entered therein. Post-judgment interest shall be calculated at the rate of twelve percent  
8 (12%) per annum and accrue on both the principal amount of the judgment and the prejudgment  
9 interest entered therein. This section shall not apply until entry of judgment or to any contractual  
10 obligation where interest is already provided.

11           (b) Subsection (a) shall not apply in any action filed on or after January 1, 1987, for  
12 personal injury or wrongful death filed against a licensed physician, hospital, clinic, health  
13 maintenance organization, professional service corporation providing health care services, dentist,  
14 or dental hygienist based on professional negligence. In all such medical malpractice actions in  
15 which a verdict is rendered or a decision made for pecuniary damages, there shall be added by the  
16 clerk of the court to the amount of damages interest at the rate of twelve percent (12%) per annum  
17 thereon from the date of ~~written notice of the claim by the claimant or his or her representative to~~  
18 ~~the malpractice liability insurer, or to the medical or dental health care provider or~~ the filing of  
19 the civil action, ~~whichever first occurs.~~

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE -- PROCEDURE GENERALLY

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1           This act would cause pre-judgment interest in a civil action to accrue only upon the filing  
2 of a civil action.

3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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