

2019 -- S 0848

LC002542

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

A N A C T

RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE -- PROCEDURE GENERALLY --  
CAUSES OF ACTION

Introduced By: Senators Goodwin, Ruggerio, and McCaffrey

Date Introduced: May 01, 2019

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 9-1 of the General Laws entitled "Causes of Action" is hereby  
2 amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **9-1-55. Treble damages in civil action for insurer violation of the unfair claims**  
4 **settlement practices act.**

5 (a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, when a motor vehicle has been deemed a  
6 total loss, the owner or leasee of the motor vehicle may bring a civil action against an insurer  
7 issuing the relevant policy for a violation of § 27-9.1-4(25).

8 (b) Any insurer found in violation of § 27-9.1-4(25) is liable for three (3) times the  
9 amount of damages awarded plus reasonable attorneys' fees.

10 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 allow for treble damages in civil actions for violations by insurers of the
- 2 unfair claims settlement practices act.
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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