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LC003901

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**S T A T E   O F   R H O D E   I S L A N D**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026**

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**A N   A C T**

**RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE -- PROCEDURE GENERALLY --  
JUDGMENTS, ORDERS, AND DECREES**

Introduced By: Representative Alex S. Finkelman

Date Introduced: January 09, 2026

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.**

4        (a) In any civil action in which a verdict is rendered or a decision made for pecuniary  
5        damages, there shall be added by the clerk of the court to the amount of damages interest ~~at the rate~~  
6        ~~of twelve percent (12%) per annum~~ thereon from the date ~~the cause of action accrued of the filing~~  
7        ~~of the civil action calculated at a rate equal to the coupon issue yield equivalent, as determined by~~  
8        ~~the United States secretary of the treasury, of the average accepted auction price for the last auction~~  
9        ~~of fifty-two (52) week United States treasury bills settled immediately preceding the date of the~~  
10        ~~filng of the action~~, which shall be included in the judgment entered therein. Post-judgment interest  
11        shall be calculated at ~~the rate of twelve percent (12%) per annum and accrue on both the principal~~  
12        ~~amount of the judgment and the prejudgment interest entered therein a rate equal to the coupon~~  
13        ~~issue yield equivalent, as determined by the United States secretary of the treasury, of the average~~  
14        ~~accepted auction price for the last auction of fifty-two (52) week United States treasury bills settled~~  
15        ~~immediately preceding the date of the filing of the action~~. This section shall not apply until entry  
16        of judgment or to any contractual obligation where interest is already provided.

17        (b) ~~Subsection (a) shall not apply in any action filed on or after January 1, 1987, for~~  
18        ~~personal injury or wrongful death filed against a licensed physician, hospital, clinic, health~~

1 ~~maintenance organization, professional service corporation providing health care services, dentist,~~  
2 ~~or dental hygienist based on professional negligence. In all such medical malpractice actions in~~  
3 ~~which a verdict is rendered or a decision made for pecuniary damages, there shall be added by the~~  
4 ~~clerk of the court to the amount of damages interest at the rate of twelve percent (12%) per annum~~  
5 ~~thereon from the date of written notice of the claim by the claimant or his or her representative to~~  
6 ~~the malpractice liability insurer, or to the medical or dental health care provider or the filing of the~~  
7 ~~civil action, whichever first occurs.~~

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

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE -- PROCEDURE GENERALLY --  
JUDGMENTS, ORDERS, AND DECREES

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1        This act would amend the calculations of interest in civil actions and provide that the  
2        interest would be calculated a rate equal to the coupon issue yield equivalent, as determined by the  
3        United States secretary of the treasury, of the average accepted auction price for the last auction of  
4        fifty-two (52) week United States treasury bills settled immediately preceding the date of the filing  
5        of the action.

6        This act would take effect upon passage.

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