

2026 -- S 3197

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

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 --  
CAUSE OF ACTION

Introduced By: Senators Dimitri, Patalano, LaMountain, Famiglietti, Appollonio, and  
Thompson

Date Introduced: April 03, 2026

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 9-1-50 of the General Laws in Chapter 9-1 entitled "Causes of  
2 Action" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **9-1-50. Settled claims not paid within thirty (30) days.**

4 (a) Whenever any claim is settled, the insurance company, adjusting company, or any other  
5 person, firm, or corporation responsible for paying the settlement shall make payment within thirty  
6 (30) days from the date the claimant or the claimant's attorney sends the release. [The signed release](#)  
7 [may be transmitted to the party responsible for paying the settlement or their attorney in electronic](#)  
8 [format.](#) The signed release may be transmitted to the party responsible for paying the settlement or  
9 their attorney in electronic format. Failure to make payment within thirty (30) days shall raise a  
10 presumption that failure to do so was a willful and wanton disregard for the rights of the claimant.  
11 In addition to all other remedies, the payor shall be liable to the claimant in a separate cause of  
12 action for punitive damages and interest which shall be computed at the rate of twelve percent  
13 (12%) per annum from the date the cause of action giving rise to the settlement occurred until the  
14 judgment on the claim brought pursuant to this section is entered.

15 (b) Any claim brought under the provisions of this section shall be given a priority on the  
16 trial calendar.

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

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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- 1           This act would permit a signed release to be transmitted to the party responsible for paying
- 2           the settlement or their attorney by electronic means.
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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