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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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A N A C T

RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE - PROCEDURE GENERALLY

Introduced By: Senator Marc A. Cote

Date Introduced: January 16, 2013

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

(by request)

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%)~~ six percent (6%) per annum  
6 thereon from the date the cause of action accrued, which shall be included in the judgment  
7 entered therein. Post-judgment interest shall be calculated at the rate of ~~twelve percent (12%)~~ six  
8 percent (6%) per annum and accrue on both the principal amount of the judgment and the  
9 prejudgment interest entered therein. This section shall not apply until entry of judgment or to any  
10 contractual 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%)~~ six  
17 percent (6%) per annum thereon from the date of written notice of the claim by the claimant or  
18 his or her representative to the malpractice liability insurer, or to the medical or dental health care  
19 provider or the filing of 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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1           This act would reduce the statutory interest in civil actions from twelve percent (12%) to  
2 six percent (6%).

3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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