

2019 -- H 5995

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LC002112  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

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A N A C T

RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE--PROCEDURE GENERALLY

Introduced By: Representatives Slater, Kislak, Almeida, Hull, and Diaz

Date Introduced: April 11, 2019

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Sections 9-31-2 and 9-31-3 of the General Laws in Chapter 9-31 entitled  
2 "Governmental Tort Liability" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3           **9-31-2. Limitations of damages -- State.**

4           In any tort action against the state of Rhode Island or any political subdivision thereof,  
5 any damages recovered therein shall not exceed the sum of one hundred thousand dollars  
6 (\$100,000); ~~provided, however, that in all instances in which the state was engaged in a~~  
7 ~~proprietary function in the commission of the tort, or in any situation whereby the state has~~  
8 ~~agreed to indemnify the federal government or any agency thereof for any tort liability, the~~  
9 ~~limitation on damages set forth in this section shall not apply.~~ The state of Rhode Island shall not  
10 be subject to the provisions of § 9-21-10.

11           **9-31-3. Limitation of damages -- Cities, towns, and fire districts.**

12           In any tort action against any city or town or any fire district, any damages recovered  
13 therein shall not exceed the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000); ~~provided, however,~~  
14 ~~that in all instances in which the city or town or fire district was engaged in a proprietary function~~  
15 ~~in the commission of the tort, the limitation of damages set forth in this section shall not apply.~~  
16 No city or town or fire district shall be subject to the provisions of § 9-21-10.

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 remove the exception to the one hundred thousand dollar (\$100,000)  
2 limitation of damages when the state, any city or town or fire district is engaged in a proprietary  
3 function in the commission of a tort or the state has agreed to indemnify the federal government  
4 or any agency for any tort liability. The act would also exempt the state, any city or town or fire  
5 district from interest in civil actions.

6           This act would take effect upon passage.

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