

2020 -- S 2561

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LC004876  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

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A N A C T

RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE -- PROCEDURE GENERALLY

Introduced By: Senator Mark P. McKenney

Date Introduced: February 25, 2020

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Sections 9-21-8 and 9-21-10 of the General Laws in Chapter 9-21 entitled  
2 "Judgments, Orders, and Decrees" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3           **9-21-8. Interest on judgment for money.**

4           Every judgment for money shall draw interest at the rate of ~~twelve percent (12%)~~ six  
5 percent (6%) per annum to the time of its discharge.

6           **9-21-10. Interest in civil actions.**

7           (a) In any civil action in which a verdict is rendered or a decision made for pecuniary  
8 damages, there shall be added by the clerk of the court to the amount of damages interest at the rate  
9 of ~~twelve percent (12%)~~ six percent (6%) per annum thereon from the date the cause of action  
10 accrued, which shall be included in the judgment entered therein. Post-judgment interest shall be  
11 calculated at the rate of ~~twelve percent (12%)~~ six percent (6%) per annum and accrue on both the  
12 principal amount of the judgment and the prejudgment interest entered therein. This section shall  
13 not apply until entry of judgment or to any contractual obligation where interest is already provided.

14           (b) Subsection (a) shall not apply in any action filed on or after January 1, 1987, for  
15 personal injury or wrongful death filed against a licensed physician, hospital, clinic, health  
16 maintenance organization, professional service corporation providing health care services, dentist,  
17 or dental hygienist based on professional negligence. In all such medical malpractice actions in  
18 which a verdict is rendered or a decision made for pecuniary damages, there shall be added by the  
19 clerk of the court to the amount of damages interest at the rate of ~~twelve percent (12%)~~ six percent

- 1 [\(6%\)](#) per annum thereon from the date of written notice of the claim by the claimant or his or her
- 2 representative to the malpractice liability insurer, or to the medical or dental health care provider
- 3 or the filing of the civil action, whichever first occurs.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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1           This act would reduce the statutory interest on judgments for money in civil actions from  
2 twelve percent (12%) to six percent (6%).

3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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