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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 -  
CAUSES OF ACTION

Introduced By: Senators de la Cruz, Rogers, Lombardi, and Ciccone

Date Introduced: February 27, 2020

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 9-1 of the General Laws entitled "Causes of Action" is hereby  
2 amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **9-1-55. Civil liability of individual or entity that prohibits the possession of firearms.**

4 (a) Whenever any person who owns a firearm, and is authorized and licensed to carry a  
5 firearm, shall suffer any injury to his or her person or death, suffer physical, emotional and/or  
6 mental distress, incur economic loss or expense, property damage or any other compensable loss  
7 as a result of conduct occurring on real property, except residences, with a written notice prohibiting  
8 the possession of firearms, may recover his or her damages for the injury or death, physical,  
9 emotional and/or mental distress, economic loss or expense, property damage or any other  
10 compensable loss, in a civil action against the individual or entity that owns the real property that  
11 prohibits the possession of firearms.

12 (b) The cause of action set forth in subsection (a) of this section shall extend to the conduct  
13 of other invitees, trespassers, employees of the person or entity, vicious animals, wild animals, and  
14 defensible man-made and natural hazards.

15 (c) The statute of limitations for the cause of action set forth in subsection (a) of this section  
16 shall be two (2) years from the date of the occurrence of the conduct which gave rise to any  
17 damages.

18 (d) To prevail in a cause of action brought under this section, the plaintiff must show by a

1 preponderance of the evidence that:

2 (1) The plaintiff owned a firearm, was authorized and licensed to carry a firearm or was  
3 not prohibited from carrying a firearm at the time of the incident giving rise to the action;

4 (2) The plaintiff did not carry the firearm on the property where the incident occurred  
5 because of the written notice prohibiting the possession of firearms;

6 (3) The injury, death, physical, emotional and/or mental distress, economic loss or expense,  
7 property damage or other compensable loss was caused as a result of the conduct that occurred on  
8 the real property and could have been avoided if the plaintiff was authorized to carry his or her  
9 firearm onto the real property; and

10 (4) The person or entity exercising control over the real property was not required by state  
11 or federal law to post the notice prohibiting the possession of firearms, but posted the notice by  
12 choice of that individual or entity.

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

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE - PROCEDURE GENERALLY -  
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1           This act would provide for a cause of action against an individual or entity that prohibits  
2 the possession of firearms on real property, except residences, by an individual that is authorized  
3 and licensed to carry a firearm. The cause of action would allow the injured individual to recover  
4 for injury to his or her person, death, physical, emotional and/or mental distress, economic loss or  
5 expense, property damage or any other compensable loss as a result of conduct occurring on the  
6 real property that prohibits the possession of firearms.

7           This act would take effect upon passage.

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