

2026 -- H 7207

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LC003931

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S T A T E O F R H O D E I S L A N D

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

**RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE -- PROCEDURE IN PARTICULAR
ACTIONS -- DEATH BY WRONGFUL ACT**

Introduced By: Representatives Perez, Fellela, Azzinaro, Phillips, Fascia, Hull, Santucci,
Quattrocchi, Diaz, and Nardone

Date Introduced: January 21, 2026

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 10-7-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 10-7 entitled "Death by
2 Wrongful Act" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **10-7-2. Persons who may bring actions — Limitation of actions — Minimum recovery
4 period.**

5 (a) Every action under this chapter, other than one brought under § 10-7-1.2, shall be
6 brought by and in the name of the executor or administrator of the deceased person, whether
7 appointed or qualified within or without the state, and of the amount recovered in every action
8 under this chapter one-half (½) shall go to the husband or widow, and one-half (½) shall go to the
9 children of the deceased, and if there are no children, the whole shall go to the husband or widow,
10 and, if there is no husband or widow, to the next of kin, in the proportion provided by law in relation
11 to the distribution of personal property left by persons dying intestate; except that no person who
12 is adjudged to be in willful contempt of being in excess of six (6) months in arrears of an order to
13 pay child support for the deceased individual shall be allowed recovery pursuant to this chapter and
14 a person so adjudged shall be deemed to have predeceased the child for the purpose of determining
15 distribution under the intestacy statute.

16 (b) Every action brought under § 10-7-1.2 shall be brought by and in the name of the person
17 or persons sustaining the loss of society, companionship and/or consortium and the amount
18 recovered shall go to the person or persons who sustained the loss.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE -- PROCEDURE IN PARTICULAR
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- 1 This act would expand the statute of limitations with respect to any wrongful act resulting
- 2 in the death of a child in utero or within six (6) months after the birth of the child, to ten (10) years
- 3 after the death of the child.
- 4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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