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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

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A N A C T

RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE - PROCEDURE GENERALLY

Introduced By: Senators Cote, and Lombardo

Date Introduced: January 18, 2017

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

(by request)

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
9 rate of ~~twelve percent (12%)~~ six percent (6%) per annum thereon from the date the cause of
10 action accrued, which shall be included in the judgment entered therein. Post-judgment interest
11 shall be calculated at the rate of ~~twelve percent (12%)~~ six percent (6%) per annum and accrue on
12 both the principal amount of the judgment and the prejudgment interest entered therein. This
13 section shall not apply until entry of judgment or to any contractual obligation where interest is
14 already provided.

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

1 clerk of the court to the amount of damages interest at the rate of ~~twelve percent (12%)~~ six
2 percent (6%) per annum thereon from the date of written notice of the claim by the claimant or
3 his or her representative to the malpractice liability insurer, or to the medical or dental health care
4 provider or the filing of the civil action, whichever first occurs.

5 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 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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