

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to prejudgment interest; creating s.  
 3           55.035, F.S.; requiring a court to include interest in  
 4           a final judgment in an action from which a plaintiff  
 5           recovers economic or noneconomic damages; specifying  
 6           the dates from which interest accrues; requiring a  
 7           court to include interest on attorney fees and costs  
 8           in the final judgment, if recovered; specifying the  
 9           rate at which interest accrues; providing for  
 10          applicability; providing an effective date.

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 12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 14           Section 1. Section 55.035, Florida Statutes, is created to  
 15 read:

16           55.035 Prejudgment interest.—

17           (1) In any action in which a plaintiff recovers economic  
 18 or noneconomic damages, the court shall include interest on each  
 19 component of damages in the final judgment.

20           (a) For economic damages, interest accrues from the date  
 21 of the loss of an economic benefit to the plaintiff.

22           (b) For noneconomic damages, interest accrues from the  
 23 date the defendant received notice of a claim from the  
 24 plaintiff.

25           (2) If the plaintiff recovers attorney fees or costs, the

26 | court shall include in the final judgment interest on such fees  
27 | or costs beginning on the date the entitlement to attorney fees  
28 | is fixed through agreement, arbitration award, or court  
29 | determination.

30 | (3) The rate of interest applicable to this section is the  
31 | rate established pursuant to s. 55.03.

32 | Section 2. This act does not affect the accrual of  
33 | prejudgment interest before the effective date of this act, if  
34 | otherwise authorized by statute or common law.

35 | Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017, and  
36 | shall apply to causes of action that accrue on or after that  
37 | date.