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I N   S E N A T E

April 30, 2014

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Introduced by Sen. LIBOUS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Judiciary

AN ACT to amend the civil practice law and rules, in relation to accrual of certain causes of action

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     Section 1. The opening paragraph of subdivision (g) of section 203 of  
2     the civil practice law and rules is designated paragraph 1 and a new  
3     paragraph 2 is added to read as follows:

4     2. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW TO THE CONTRARY, FOR THE  
5     PURPOSES OF SECTIONS FIFTY-E AND FIFTY-I OF THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW,  
6     SECTION TEN OF THE COURT OF CLAIMS ACT, AND THE PROVISIONS OF ANY OTHER  
7     LAW PERTAINING TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF AN ACTION OR SPECIAL PROCEEDING,  
8     OR TO THE FILING OF A NOTICE OF CLAIM AS A CONDITION PRECEDENT TO  
9     COMMENCEMENT OF AN ACTION OR SPECIAL PROCEEDING WITHIN A SPECIFIED TIME  
10    PERIOD, THE PERIOD IN WHICH TO COMMENCE SUCH ACTION OR PROCEEDING OR TO  
11    FILE SUCH NOTICE OF CLAIM SHALL NOT BEING TO RUN UNTIL THE LATER OF  
12    EITHER: (A) WHEN ONE KNOWS OR REASONABLY SHOULD HAVE KNOWN OF THE  
13    ALLEGED NEGLIGENT ACT OR OMISSION AND KNOWS OR REASONABLY SHOULD HAVE  
14    KNOWN THAT SUCH NEGLIGENT ACT OR OMISSION HAS CAUSED AN INJURY; OR (B)  
15    THE DATE OF THE LAST TREATMENT WHERE THERE IS CONTINUOUS TREATMENT FOR  
16    THE SAME ILLNESS, INJURY OR CONDITION WHICH HAVE RISE TO THE ACCRUAL OF  
17    AN ACTION. HOWEVER, SUCH ACTION SHALL COMMENCE NO LATER THAN TEN YEARS  
18    FROM THE ACT, OMISSION OR FAILURE COMPLAINED OF OR LAST TREATMENT WHERE  
19    THERE IS CONTINUOUS TREATMENT FOR THE SAME ILLNESS, INJURY OR CONDITION  
20    WHICH GAVE RISE TO THE ACT, OMISSION OR FAILURE; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT  
21    WHERE THE ACTION IS BASED UPON THE DISCOVERY OF A FOREIGN OBJECT IN THE  
22    BODY OF A PATIENT, THE ACTION MAY BE COMMENCED WITHIN ONE YEAR OF THE  
23    DATE OF SUCH DISCOVERY OR OF THE DATE OF DISCOVERY OF FACTS WHICH WOULD  
24    REASONABLY LEAD TO SUCH DISCOVERY, WHICHEVER IS EARLIER.

25    S 2. Section 214-a of the civil practice law and rules, as amended by  
26    chapter 485 of the laws of 1986, is amended to read as follows:

27    S 214-a. Action for medical, dental or podiatric malpractice to be  
28    commenced within two years and six months; exceptions. An action for

EXPLANATION--Matter in *ITALICS* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[ ] is old law to be omitted.

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1 medical, dental or podiatric malpractice must be commenced within two  
2 years and six months of the ACCRUAL OF ANY SUCH ACTION. THE ACCRUAL OF  
3 AN ACTION OCCURS AT THE LATER OF EITHER (A) WHEN ONE KNOWS OR REASONABLY  
4 SHOULD HAVE KNOWN OF THE ALLEGED NEGLIGENT ACT OR OMISSION AND KNOWS OR  
5 REASONABLY SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT SUCH NEGLIGENT ACT OR OMISSION HAS  
6 CAUSED AN INJURY; OR (B) WITHIN TWO YEARS AND SIX MONTHS OF THE LAST  
7 TREATMENT WHERE THERE IS CONTINUOUS TREATMENT FOR THE SAME ILLNESS,  
8 INJURY OR CONDITION WHICH GAVE RISE TO THE ACCRUAL OF AN ACTION. HOWEV-  
9 ER, SUCH ACTION SHALL COMMENCE NO LATER THAN TEN YEARS FROM THE act,  
10 omission or failure complained of or last treatment where there is  
11 continuous treatment for the same illness, injury or condition which  
12 gave rise to the said act, omission or failure; provided, however, that  
13 where the action is based upon the discovery of a foreign object in the  
14 body of the patient, the action may be commenced within one year of the  
15 date of such discovery or of the date of discovery of facts which would  
16 reasonably lead to such discovery, whichever is earlier. For the purpose  
17 of this section the term "continuous treatment" shall not include exam-  
18 inations undertaken at the request of the patient for the sole purpose  
19 of ascertaining the state of the patient's condition. For the purpose of  
20 this section the term "foreign object" shall not include a chemical  
21 compound, fixation device or prosthetic aid or device.  
22 S 3. This act shall take effect immediately.