LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 710

Introduced by Baker, 30.

Read first time January 03, 2018

Committee: Judiciary

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to civil lawsuits; to amend section 25-1801,
- 2 Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to change provisions relating
- 3 to costs, interest, and attorney fees; to define a term; and to
- 4 repeal the original section.
- 5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 25-1801, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

(1) On any lawsuit of Any person, partnership, limited 3 25-1801 4 liability company, association, or corporation in this state having a 5 claim which amounts to four thousand dollars or less, regardless of whether the claims are liquidated or assigned, the plaintiff may recover 6 7 costs, interest, and attorney's fees in connection with each claim as provided in this section against any person, partnership, limited 8 9 liability company, association, or corporation doing business in this 10 state for (1) services rendered, (2) labor done, (3) material furnished, (4) overcharges made and collected, (5) lost or damaged personal 11 property, (6) damage resulting from delay in transmission or 12 13 transportation, (7) livestock killed or injured in transit, or (8) 14 charges covering articles and service affecting the life and well-being 15 of the debtor which are adjudged by the court to be necessaries of life may present the same to such person, partnership, limited liability 16 17 company, association, or corporation, or to any agent thereof, for payment in any county where suit may be instituted for the collection of 18 19 the same. If, at the expiration of ninety days after each the presentation of such claim accrued, the claim or claims have same has not 20 been paid or satisfied, the plaintiff he, she, or it may institute suit 21 22 file a lawsuit for payment of the claim or claims thereon in the proper 23 court. If full payment of each claim is made to the plaintiff by or on 24 behalf of the defendant after the filing of the suit lawsuit, but before 25 judgment is taken, except as otherwise agreed in writing by the plaintiff, the plaintiff shall be entitled to receive the costs of suit 26 the lawsuit whether by voluntary payment or judgment. If the plaintiff 27 28 he, she, or it establishes the claim and secures a judgment thereon, the plaintiff he, she, or it shall be entitled to recover: 29

30 <u>(a) The the full amount of such judgment and all costs of the</u> 31 <u>lawsuit suit</u> thereon;

- 1 (b) Interest judgment , and, in addition thereto, interest on the
- 2 amount of the claim at the rate provided for by contract or another
- 3 written instrument, or, in the absence of such provision, at a rate of
- 4 six percent per annum. Such interest shall apply to the amount of the
- 5 total claim from the date each claim accrued, regardless of assignment,
- 6 <u>until paid in full; of presentation thereof</u>, and
- 7 (c) If the plaintiff , if he, she, or it has an attorney retained,
- 8 employed, or otherwise working in connection with the case, an amount for
- 9 attorney's fees as provided in this section.
- 10 (2) If the cause is taken to an appellate court and the plaintiff
- 11 recovers a shall recover judgment thereon, the appellate court shall tax
- 12 as costs in the action, to be paid to the plaintiff, an additional amount
- 13 for attorney's fees in such appellate court as provided in this section,
- 14 except that if the party in interest plaintiff fails to recover a
- 15 judgment in excess of the amount that may have been tendered by the
- 16 defendant any person, partnership, limited liability company,
- 17 association, or corporation liable under this section, then the plaintiff
- 18 such party in interest shall not recover the attorney's fees provided by
- 19 this section.
- 20 <u>(3)</u> Attorney's fees shall be assessed by the court in a reasonable
- 21 amount but shall in no event be less than ten dollars when the judgment
- 22 is fifty dollars or less and when the judgment is over fifty dollars up
- 23 to four thousand dollars the attorney's fee shall be ten dollars plus ten
- 24 percent of the judgment in excess of fifty dollars.
- 25 (4) For purposes of this section, the date that each claim accrued
- 26 <u>means the date the services, goods, materials, labor, or money were</u>
- 27 provided, the date the charges were incurred by the debtor, the date the
- 28 injury or damages occurred, or the date of loss, unless some different
- 29 <u>time period is expressly set forth in a written agreement between the</u>
- 30 <u>parties.</u>
- 31 (5) This section shall apply to original creditors as well as their

LB710 2018 LB710 2018

- 1 <u>assignees and successors.</u>
- 2 Sec. 2. Original section 25-1801, Reissue Revised Statutes of
- 3 Nebraska, is repealed.