

**48.196 PENALTY FOR USURIOUS INTEREST.**

The taking, receiving, reserving or charging by a lender of a rate of interest greater than is allowed by state law shall be deemed a forfeiture of the entire interest which the note, bill, or other evidence of debt carries with it, or which has been agreed to be paid thereon. In case the greater rate of interest has been paid, the person paying it, or the person's legal representatives, may recover, in an action in the nature of an action of debt, twice the amount of the interest thus paid from the lender taking or receiving the interest, if the action is commenced within two years from the time the usurious transaction occurred. For purposes of this section, the term "lender" means a bank or savings bank organized under the laws of this state, a federally chartered savings association, a savings association organized under chapter 51A, a federally chartered credit union, a credit union organized under chapter 52, an industrial loan and thrift company organized under chapter 53, a regulated lender licensed under chapter 56, or a mortgagee or lender approved or certified by the secretary of housing and urban development or approved or certified by the administrator of veterans affairs.

**History:** 1980 c 606 s 2; 1983 c 252 s 3; 1986 c 444; 1995 c 202 art 1 s 25