

2025 -- H 5222

LC000951

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

RELATING TO DELINQUENT AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN -- PROCEEDINGS IN
FAMILY COURT

Introduced By: Representatives Craven, Caldwell, Dawson, Azzinaro, Casey, and
Casimiro

Date Introduced: January 29, 2025

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 14-1-5 of the General Laws in Chapter 14-1 entitled "Proceedings in
2 Family Court" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **14-1-5. Exclusive jurisdiction.**

4 (a) The court shall, as set forth in this chapter, have exclusive original jurisdiction in
5 proceedings:

6 (1) Concerning any child residing or being within the state who is: (i) Delinquent; (ii)
7 Wayward; (iii) Dependent; (iv) Neglected; or (v) Mentally disabled;

8 (2) Concerning adoption of children;

9 (3) To determine the paternity of any child alleged to have been born out of wedlock and
10 to provide for the support and disposition of that child in case that child or the child's mother has
11 residence within the state; and

12 (4) [Deleted by P.L. 2021, ch. 39, § 3 and P.L. 2021, ch. 40, § 3.]

13 (5) Referred to the court in accordance with the provisions of § 14-1-28.

14 (b) The jurisdiction of the court is concurrent with that of a federal court sitting in the state
15 over proceedings involving a violation of federal law committed by a child on a military installation
16 of the United States Department of Defense if:

17 (1) The United States Attorney, or the federal court waives exclusive jurisdiction; and

18 (2) The violation of federal law is also a crime under state law.

1 (c) When concurrent jurisdiction has been established pursuant to this chapter, the court
2 has exclusive original jurisdiction over any case involving a child who is alleged to be delinquent
3 as the result of an act committed within the boundaries of a military installation that is a crime or
4 infraction under state law.

5 (d) In any case involving a child who has previously committed such an act on a military
6 installation, the family court shall have exclusive and automatic jurisdiction.

7 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO DELINQUENT AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN -- PROCEEDINGS IN
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1 This act would clarify jurisdiction between the Rhode Island Family Court and the Federal
2 Government for the purposes of adjudicating minors who have allegedly committed a crime while
3 residing on a military installation located in the State of Rhode Island.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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