

2025 -- S 0289

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

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A N A C T

RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE -- COURTS -- JUDICIAL SELECTION

Introduced By: Senators Zurier, McKenney, and Euer

Date Introduced: February 13, 2025

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 8-16.1-7 of the General Laws in Chapter 8-16.1 entitled "Judicial
2 Selection" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **8-16.1-7. Tenure of justices.**

4 (a) The justices of the supreme court, ~~the superior court, the family court, the district court,~~
5 ~~the workers' compensation court, and the traffic tribunal~~ shall hold office during good behavior.

6 (b) Any justice and magistrate of the superior court, the family court, the district court, the
7 workers' compensation court, and the traffic tribunal initially appointed after July 1, 2025, shall
8 hold office during good behavior, provided, however, that upon attaining the age of seventy-five
9 (75), shall be mandated to retire.

10 (c) The provisions of subsection (b) of this section shall not prohibit the justices and
11 magistrates of the superior court, the family court, the district court, the workers' compensation
12 court, and the traffic tribunal from service after retirement pursuant to § 8-3-10.

13 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, the provisions of §§ 8-
14 3-7, 8-3-8, 8-3-11, 8-8.2-6 and 8-8.2-9 and any other law providing for retirement of a justice of
15 any court of this state, shall remain in full force and effect.

16 (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, whenever any justice
17 has reached the mandatory age of retirement as provided herein, and has served in judicial office
18 without having reached the prescribed tenure or years of service that would entitle them to
19 retirement benefits, the supreme court shall recommend that their pension rights be accelerated to

1 become effective as of the date of their retirement. The supreme court shall forward the
2 recommendation to the general assembly for appropriate legislative action in order that the justice's
3 pension benefits be so accelerated.

4 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE -- COURTS -- JUDICIAL SELECTION

1 This act would set a mandatory retirement age of seventy-five (75) for all justices and
2 magistrates of the superior, district, workers' compensation, family and traffic tribunal courts who
3 are initially appointed after July 1, 2025 and provide that no pension or retirement benefits be
4 affected thereby.

5 This act would take effect on July 1, 2025.

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