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LC004897  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

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A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC RECORDS -- ACCESS TO PUBLIC RECORDS

Introduced By: Representatives Kislak, Potter, Serpa, Cortvriend, McGaw, Boylan,  
Caldwell, Cotter, Spears, and Carson  
Date Introduced: February 06, 2026

Referred To: House State Government & Elections

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

- 1           SECTION 1. Chapter 38-2 of the General Laws entitled "Access to Public Records" is  
2 hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:  
3           **38-2-17. Traffic accidents and improvement data.**  
4           Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter or state law, any records that, under  
5 23 U.S.C. § 407, are not discoverable or admissible in court proceedings or allowed to be  
6 considered for other purposes in damage actions shall nonetheless be deemed public records;  
7 provided, however, the records may not be used for purposes prohibited by that federal statute.  
8 When making the record public, whether in response to a request pursuant to this chapter, or  
9 otherwise, a public body may provide written notice of the aforementioned restrictions on their use.  
10          SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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- 1           This act would make traffic accident data a public record, subject to federal law.
- 2           This act would take effect upon passage.

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