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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 EDUCATION -- OFFENSES PERTAINING TO SCHOOLS

Introduced By: Representatives Morales, Sanchez, Giraldo, Cruz, Potter, and Cotter

Date Introduced: February 27, 2026

Referred To: House Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 16-38 of the General Laws entitled "Offenses Pertaining to Schools  
2 [See Title 16 Chapter 97 — The Rhode Island Board of Education Act]" is hereby amended by  
3 adding thereto the following section:

4           **16-38-15. Legacy admissions.**

5           (a) No public or private university shall extend preferential treatment to an applicant in any  
6 manner because of the student's familial relationship to a previous attendee during admissions  
7 consideration.

8           (b) No public or private university shall inquire about a prospective student's familial  
9 relationship to a previous attendee on an application for admission. If the university learns about  
10 the prospective student's familial relationship to a previous attendee during the application process,  
11 the institution shall not extend preferential treatment to the prospective student.

12           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 EDUCATION -- OFFENSES PERTAINING TO SCHOOLS

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1           This act would ban preferential treatment to a public or private university applicant because  
2 of the student's familial relationship to a previous university attendee.

3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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