

2026 -- H 8030

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- GENERAL POWERS

Introduced By: Representatives McEntee, Spears, O'Brien, and Casey

Date Introduced: February 27, 2026

Referred To: House Municipal Government & Housing

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 45-2-3.3 of the General Laws in Chapter 45-2 entitled "General
2 Powers" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **45-2-3.3. Background checks.**

4 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of the general or public laws to the contrary, any person
5 seeking to work or volunteer for a municipal recreation department, or any municipal recreation
6 department having the written authorization of a person seeking to work or volunteer for the
7 municipal recreation department, may request a Rhode Island criminal history background check
8 from their local police department for that person. The Rhode Island criminal history background
9 check shall be a certified true copy of the criminal record report and shall bear indicia of
10 authenticity including being printed on local police department letterhead with a raised seal and
11 bearing the signature of a duly appointed local police officer.

12 (b) Further, notwithstanding any provision of the general or public laws to the contrary,
13 any person seeking to work or volunteer for a fire department or fire district located in the town of
14 Burrillville, or any fire department or fire district having the written authorization of a person
15 seeking to work or volunteer for the fire department or fire district located in the town of
16 Burrillville, may request a Rhode Island criminal history background check from the Burrillville
17 Police Department for that person. The Rhode Island criminal history background check shall be a
18 certified true copy of the criminal record report and shall bear indicia of authenticity including
19 being printed on Burrillville Police Department letterhead with a raised seal and bearing the

1 signature of a duly appointed Burrillville Police Officer.

2 (c) Notwithstanding any provisions of the general or public laws to the contrary, any person
3 seeking to work or volunteer for a fire department or fire district located in the Town of South
4 Kingstown, including but not limited to the Union Fire District and the Kingston Fire District, shall
5 undergo a national and state criminal background in accordance with § 45-2-3.4. The applicant
6 shall apply to the bureau of criminal identification (BCI), department of attorney general, state
7 police, or the South Kingstown Police Department for a national and state criminal records check.
8 Fingerprinting shall be required. The applicant shall be responsible for the cost of conducting the
9 national and state criminal records check. The South Kingstown Police Department may request
10 and receive the results of such background check for purpose of determining eligibility for services.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- GENERAL POWERS

1 This act would require any person seeking to work or volunteer for a fire department or
2 fire district in the town of South Kingstown to undergo a national and state criminal background
3 check conducted by the bureau of criminal identification (BCI), department of attorney general,
4 state police, or the South Kingstown police department.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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