

2026 -- H 8063

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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 CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- SEXUAL ASSAULT

Introduced By: Representatives Roberts, Hull, McNamara, Edwards, Bennett, Casey,  
Solomon, Serpa, Azzinaro, and Costantino  
Date Introduced: February 27, 2026

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Sections 11-37-3 and 11-37-8.2 of the General Laws in Chapter 11-37 entitled  
2 "Sexual Assault" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3           **11-37-3. Penalty for first degree sexual assault.**

4           Every person who shall commit sexual assault in the first degree shall be imprisoned for a  
5 period not less than ten (10) years and may be imprisoned for life; provided, however, that the  
6 sentencing court shall ensure that the victim or victims approve of any negotiated sentence imposed  
7 on the offender.

8           **11-37-8.2. Penalty for first degree child molestation sexual assault.**

9           Every person who shall commit first degree child molestation sexual assault shall be  
10 imprisoned for a period of not less than twenty-five (25) years and may be imprisoned for life;  
11 provided, however, that the sentencing court shall ensure that the victim or victims, or their parents  
12 or guardian, approve of the any negotiated sentence imposed on the offender.

13           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 CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- SEXUAL ASSAULT

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1           This act would require that any court sentencing a person for first degree sexual assault or  
2 first degree child molestation, have the approval of the victim before imposing any negotiated  
3 sentence upon the offender.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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