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LC004452
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC RECORDS -- ACCESS TO PUBLIC RECORDS

Introduced By: Senators Kallman, DiPalma, Thompson, Raptakis, Murray, Mack, Lauria,
Urso, Dimitri, and Appollonio
Date Introduced: February 06, 2026

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

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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