

**2026 -- S 2484**

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**S T A T E   O F   R H O D E   I S L A N D**

**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 -- COST**

Introduced By: Senators E Morgan, Rogers, Ciccone, de la Cruz, Paolino, Raptakis, Appollonio, DiPalma, LaMountain, and Tikoian

Date Introduced: February 06, 2026

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1        SECTION 1. Section 38-2-4 of the General Laws in Chapter 38-2 entitled "Access to Public  
2        Records" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3        **38-2-4. Cost.**

4            (a) Subject to the provisions of § 38-2-3, a public body must allow copies to be made or  
5        provide copies of public records. The cost per copied page of written documents provided to the  
6        public shall not exceed fifteen cents (\$.15) per page for documents copyable on common business  
7        or legal size paper. A public body may not charge more than the reasonable actual cost for providing  
8        electronic records or retrieving records from storage where the public body is assessed a retrieval  
9        fee.

10           (b) A reasonable charge may be made for the search or retrieval of documents. Hourly costs  
11        for a search and retrieval shall not exceed fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per hour and no costs shall be  
12        charged for the first hour of a search or retrieval. For the purposes of this subsection, multiple  
13        requests from any person or entity to the same public body within a thirty (30) day time period shall  
14        be considered one request.

15           (c) Copies of documents shall be provided and the search and retrieval of documents  
16        accomplished within a reasonable time after a request. A public body upon request, shall provide  
17        an estimate of the costs of a request for documents prior to providing copies.

18           (d) Upon request, the public body shall provide a detailed itemization of the costs charged  
19        for search and retrieval.

5                   (f) The fees for costs charged for search, retrieval or copying shall be waived for members  
6                   of the general assembly who certify that they are acting in their official capacity and require the  
7                   copies for the discharge of their legislative duties.

8 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 PUBLIC RECORDS -- ACCESS TO PUBLIC RECORDS -- COST

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- 1        This act would provide that fees for costs charged for search, retrieval or copying of public
- 2        records shall be waived for members of the general assembly who certify that they are acting in
- 3        their official capacity.
- 4        This act would take effect upon passage.

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