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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- MOTOR VEHICLE OFFENSES

Introduced By: Senators Raptakis, Patalano, Thompson, Appollonio, Famiglietti,
Tikoian, Burke, and Paolino
Date Introduced: February 06, 2026

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 31-27-4 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-27 entitled "Motor
2 Vehicle Offenses" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **31-27-4. Reckless driving and other offenses against public safety.**

4 Any person who operates a motor vehicle recklessly so that the lives or safety of the public
5 might be endangered, or operates a vehicle in an attempt to elude or flee from a traffic officer or
6 police vehicle, or who commits one or more moving violations while traveling at least twenty-five
7 miles per hour (25 mph) shall be guilty of ~~a misdemeanor for the first conviction and a felony for~~
8 ~~the second and each subsequent conviction~~ a felony and shall be imprisoned for not more than five
9 (5) years and fined not less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), nor more than five thousand dollars
10 (\$5,000).

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
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- 1 This act would increase the penalties for reckless driving from a misdemeanor first offense
2 to a felony, with a penalty of up to five years in prison and a fine of between one thousand dollars
3 (\$1,000) and five thousand dollars (\$5,000).
4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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