

2025 -- S 0814

LC002218

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- OBSTRUCTING JUSTICE

Introduced By: Senators Dimitri, Patalano, Tikoian, Burke, Appollonio, Raptakis,
Vargas, Paolino, Rogers, and de la Cruz

Date Introduced: March 14, 2025

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 11-32-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 11-32 entitled "Obstructing
2 Justice" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **11-32-2. ~~False report of crime~~ False report of crime or official misconduct.**

4 (a) Every person who shall knowingly make or cause to be made, whether oral or written,
5 a false statement of ~~a~~:

6 (1) A crime, ~~either oral or written~~, with intent that it be relied upon by a police officer of
7 any city or town or by any member of the state police;

8 (2) An official formal complaint of misconduct by any law enforcement personnel and/or
9 law enforcement department/agency; or

10 (3) An official formal complaint of misconduct by emergency personnel and/or emergency
11 department/agent; shall be deemed guilty of ~~obstructing an officer~~ a misdemeanor and shall be
12 imprisoned not exceeding one year and/or be fined not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500), and
13 shall in addition to this imprisonment and/or fine be ordered to make restitution to the person falsely
14 accused of a crime or misconduct for any damage which the person sustained as a result of the false
15 complaint.

16 (b) For purposes of this section:

17 (1) "Law enforcement" means any permanently employed city or town police officer, state
18 police officer, public safety officer, sheriff, or capitol police officer.

19 (2) "Emergency personnel" means emergency services officials, first aid, emergency

1 [medical technicians and personnel, fire safety officials and hospital staff.](#)

2 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 make it a misdemeanor to knowingly file a false report of misconduct of
- 2 any law enforcement official, public safety official, or hospital staff.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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