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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO PARKS AND RECREATIONAL AREAS -- PUBLIC USE OF PRIVATE
LANDS-LIABILITY LIMITATIONS

Introduced By: Representatives Craven, and Shanley

Date Introduced: February 12, 2026

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 32-6-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 32-6 entitled "Public Use of
2 Private Lands — Liability Limitations" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **32-6-2. Definitions.**

4 As used in this chapter:

5 (1) "Charge" means the admission price or fee asked in return for invitation or permission
6 to enter or go upon the land;

7 (2) "Land" means land, roads, water, watercourses, private ways and buildings, structures,
8 and machinery or equipment when attached to the realty;

9 (3) "Owner" means the private-owner possessor of a fee interest, or tenant, lessee,
10 occupant, or person in control of the premises, ~~including the state and municipalities;~~

11 (4) "Recreational purposes" includes, but is not limited to, any of the following, or any
12 combination thereof: hunting, fishing, swimming, boating, camping, picnicking, hiking, horseback
13 riding, bicycling, pleasure driving, nature study, water skiing, water sports, viewing or enjoying
14 historical, archaeological, scenic, or scientific sites, and all other recreational purposes
15 contemplated by this chapter; and

16 (5) "User" means any person using land for recreational purposes.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO PARKS AND RECREATIONAL AREAS -- PUBLIC USE OF PRIVATE
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- 1 This act would change the definition of owner to exclude the state and municipalities for
- 2 the purposes of liability limitations relating to public use of private lands.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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