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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

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A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE - PEN REGISTERS AND TRAP AND TRACE  
DEVICES

Introduced By: Representatives Filippi, Blazejewski, Regunberg, Chippendale, and  
Price

Date Introduced: February 24, 2016

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Sections 12-5.2-1, 12-5.2-2, 12-5.2-3 and 12-5.2-4 of the General Laws in  
2 Chapter 12-5.2 entitled "Pen Registers and Trap and Trace Devices" are hereby amended to read  
3 as follows:

4           **12-5.2-1. Definitions.** -- As used in this chapter:

5           (1) "Designated offense" means the offenses of:

6           (i) Murder, robbery, kidnapping, extortion, assault with a dangerous weapon, and assault  
7 with intent to rob or murder;

8           (ii) Arson in the first degree, arson in the second degree, or arson in the third degree;

9           (iii) Bribery; larceny involving the receipt of stolen property of a value of more than five  
10 hundred dollars (\$500);

11           (iv) Any violation of chapter 28 of title 21 where the offense is punishable by  
12 imprisonment for more than one year;

13           (v) Any violation of chapters 19, 47, or 51 of title 11, where the offense is punishable by  
14 imprisonment for more than one year;

15           (vi) The lending of money at a rate of interest in violation of law; and

16           (vii) Conspiracy to commit any of the offenses provided in this subdivision;

17           (2) "Pen register" means a device which records or decodes electronic or other impulses  
18 which identify the numbers dialed or otherwise transmitted on the telephone line to which the

1 device is attached, but does not include any device used by a provider or customer of a wire or  
2 electronic communication service for billing, or recording as an incident to billing, for  
3 communications services provided by the provider or any device used by a provider or customer  
4 of a wire communication service for cost accounting or other like purposes in the ordinary course  
5 of its business;

6 [\(3\) "Stingray" means any cell-site simulator device which forces nearby mobile phones](#)  
7 [and other cellular data devices to connect to it, or forces a temporary connection with cellular](#)  
8 [devices for the purpose of downloading the IMSI, ESN, or other identifying data from each of the](#)  
9 [cellular phones or cellular data devices which are forced to connect to the device.](#)

10 ~~(3)~~(4) "Trap and trace device" means a device which captures the incoming electronic or  
11 other impulses which identify the originating number of an instrument or device from which a  
12 wire or electronic communication was transmitted;

13 ~~(4)~~(5) "Wire communications" has the meaning set forth in § 12-5.1-1.

14 **12-5.2-2. Application for an order for a pen register or a trap and trace device. --** (a)

15 (1) The attorney general or an assistant attorney general designated by the attorney general may  
16 make application for an order or an extension of an order pursuant to the provisions of § 12-5.2-3  
17 authorizing or approving the installation and use of a pen register or a trap and trace device [or a](#)  
18 [stingray](#) under this chapter, in writing under oath or equivalent affirmation, to the presiding  
19 justice of the superior court or his or her designee in order to obtain information regarding a  
20 designated offense.

21 (2) Any law enforcement officer set forth in § 12-5-3 may make application for an order  
22 or an extension of an order under § 12-5.2-3 authorizing or approving the installation and use of a  
23 pen register or a trap and trace device [or a stingray](#) under this chapter, in writing under oath or  
24 equivalent affirmation to the presiding justice of the superior court or his or her designee.

25 (b) An application pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall include:

26 (1) The identity of the attorney general, assistant attorney general, or the law  
27 enforcement officer making the application and the identity of the law enforcement agency  
28 conducting the investigation; and

29 (2) A certification by the applicant that the information likely to be obtained is relevant  
30 and necessary to an ongoing criminal investigation, that other investigative procedures have been  
31 or are being initiated or conducted, and that the request for the issuance of the pen register and/or  
32 trap and trace device [or a stingray](#) is necessary to further an ongoing criminal investigation being  
33 conducted by that agency.

34 **12-5.2-3. Issuance of an order for a pen register or a trap and trace device. --** (a) (1)

1 Upon an application made pursuant to § 12-5.2-2, the court shall enter an ex parte order  
2 authorizing the installation and use of a pen register or a trap and trace device [or a stingray](#) if the  
3 court is reasonably satisfied that the information likely to be obtained by the installation and use  
4 is relevant and necessary to further an ongoing criminal investigation and that use of a pen  
5 register or trap and trace device [or a stingray](#) is the least intrusive way to obtain the information  
6 sought.

7 (2) An order issued under this section shall specify:

8 (i) The identity, if known, of the person to whom is leased or in whose name is listed the  
9 telephone line to which the pen register or trap and trace device [or a stingray](#) is to be attached;

10 (ii) The identity of the person who is the subject of the criminal investigation;

11 (iii) The number and physical location of the telephone line to which the pen register or  
12 trap and trace device is to be attached and, in the case if a trap and trace device, the geographic  
13 limits of the trap and trace order [or a stingray](#);

14 (iv) A statement of the offense to which the information likely to be obtained by the pen  
15 register or trap and trace device [or a stingray](#) is relevant; and

16 (v) Shall direct, upon the request of the applicant, the furnishing of information,  
17 facilities, and technical assistance necessary to accomplish the installation of the pen register or  
18 trap and trace device [or a stingray](#) under § 12-5.2-4.

19 (b) An order issued pursuant to this section shall authorize the installation and use of a  
20 pen register or a trap and trace device [or a stingray](#) for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days.

21 (c) Extensions of the order may be granted only upon an application for an order  
22 pursuant to § 12-5.2-2, and upon the judicial finding required by subdivision (a)(1) of this section.  
23 The period of extension shall be a period not to exceed sixty (60) days.

24 (d) An order authorizing or approving the installation and use of a pen register or a trap  
25 and trace device [or a stingray](#) shall direct that:

26 (1) The order is sealed until otherwise ordered by the court; and

27 (2) The person owning or leasing the line to which the pen register or a trap and trace  
28 device [or a stingray](#) is attached, or who has been ordered by the court to provide assistance to the  
29 applicant, not disclose the existence of the pen register or trap and trace device [or a stingray](#) or  
30 the existence of the investigation to the listed subscriber, or to any other person, unless or until  
31 otherwise ordered by the court.

32 **12-5.2-4. Assistance in installation and use of pen register or a trap and trace device.**

33 -- (a) Upon the request of the attorney general, assistant attorney general, or law enforcement  
34 officer authorized to install and use a pen register [or a stingray](#) under this chapter, a provider of

1 wire communication service shall immediately furnish the attorney general, assistant attorney  
2 general, or law enforcement officer all information, facilities, and technical assistance necessary  
3 to accomplish the installation of the pen register [or a stingray](#) unobtrusively, and with a minimum  
4 of interference with the services that the person so ordered by the court accords the party with  
5 respect to whom the installation and use is to take place, if the assistance is directed by a court  
6 order as provided in § 12-5.2-3.

7 (b) Upon the request of the attorney general, assistant attorney general, or an officer of a  
8 law enforcement agency authorized to receive the results of a trap and trace device [or a stingray](#)  
9 under this chapter, a provider of a wire communication service shall immediately install the  
10 device on the appropriate line and shall furnish the investigative or law enforcement officer all  
11 additional information, facilities, and technical assistance including installation and operation of  
12 the device unobtrusively and with a minimum of interference with the services that the person so  
13 ordered by the court accords the party with respect to whom the installation and use is to take  
14 place, if the installation and assistance is directed by a court order as provided in § 12-5.2-3.  
15 Unless otherwise ordered by the court, the results of the trap and trace device [or a stingray](#) shall  
16 be furnished to the attorney general, assistant attorney general, or officer of a law enforcement  
17 agency, designated by the court, at reasonable intervals during regular business hours for the  
18 duration of the order.

19 (c) A provider of a wire communication service who furnishes facilities or technical  
20 assistance pursuant to this section shall be reasonably compensated for reasonable expenses  
21 incurred in providing these facilities and assistance.

22 (d) No cause of action shall lie in any court against any provider of a wire  
23 communication service, its officers, employees, or agents, or other specified persons for  
24 providing information, facilities, or assistance in accordance with the terms of a court order under  
25 this chapter.

26 (e) Good faith reliance on a court order, a legislative authorization, or a statutory  
27 authorization shall be an absolute defense against any civil or criminal action brought pursuant to  
28 this chapter or any other law.

29 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 prohibit the use of a stingray cell-site simulator device by any law  
2 enforcement agency except upon application for its use and the granting of its order by the  
3 presiding justice of the superior court.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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