

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- SEXUAL ASSAULT

Introduced By: Representatives Roberts, Kazarian, Craven, Chippendale, Casimiro,  
Donovan, Cortvriend, Speakman, McNamara, and Hull

Date Introduced: February 21, 2023

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 11-37-3 and 11-37-5 of the General Laws in Chapter 11-37 entitled  
2 "Sexual Assault" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **11-37-3. Penalty for first degree sexual assault.**

4 Every person who shall commit sexual assault in the first degree shall be imprisoned for a  
5 period not less than ~~ten (10)~~ fifteen (15) years; provided, the first ten (10) years shall be served and  
6 the person shall not be afforded the benefits of deferment or suspension of sentence and may be  
7 imprisoned for life.

8 **11-37-5. Penalty for second degree sexual assault.**

9 Every person who shall commit sexual assault in the second degree shall be imprisoned for  
10 not less than ~~three (3)~~ five (5) years; provided, the first five (5) years shall be served and the person  
11 shall not be afforded the benefits of deferment or suspension of sentence and not more than fifteen  
12 (15) years.

13 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage and shall be applicable to all those  
14 offenses committed after passage.

EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
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1           This act would increase the minimum sentence for first degree and second degree sexual  
2 assault and provides that the first ten (10) years of a sentence for first degree sexual assault and the  
3 first five (5) years for second degree sexual assault, not be subject to a suspension or deferment of  
4 sentence.

5           This act would take effect upon passage and would be applicable to all those offenses  
6 committed after passage.

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