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LC004338

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**S T A T E   O F   R H O D E   I S L A N D**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026**

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**A N   A C T**

**RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- BAIL AND RECOGNIZANCE**

Introduced By: Representatives Place, Cruz, Potter, J. Lombardi, Newberry, Tanzi, Felix,  
J. Brien, Hull, and Ajello

Date Introduced: January 23, 2026

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1        SECTION 1. Chapter 12-13 of the General Laws entitled "Bail and Recognizance" is  
2 hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3        **12-13-26. Bail task force.**

4        (a) Purpose. The purpose of this section is to analyze whether or not the judges of the  
5        district and superior courts:

6        (1) Should continue the use of monetary conditions of bail and if so, to what extent;

7        (2) To ensure that they have sufficiently robust, reliable, and effective options available to  
8        them that serve as alternatives to monetary conditions of bail that will ensure an accused's  
9        appearance in court, enhance public safety, and honor the presumptions of innocence and non-  
10        monetary conditions of bail; and

11        (3) To further improve the already high quality of criminal justice in our state. In order to  
12        accomplish these goals, the general assembly creates a bail task force to study, identify, and  
13        recommend any necessary changes to current Rhode Island bail laws, court rules, procedures, and  
14        practices.

15        (b) Membership. The task force shall be comprised of the following ten (10) members or  
16        their designees:

17        (1) The chief justice of the Rhode Island supreme court who shall serve as the chairperson  
18        of the task force;

19        (2) The attorney general who shall serve as a co-chairperson of the task force;



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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- BAIL AND RECOGNIZANCE

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- 1        This act would create a ten (10) member bail task force to study the need of monetary
- 2        conditions of bail and to consider other methods for ensuring an accused's appearance in court,
- 3        enhance public safety and honor the presumption of innocence and to file a report by January 1,
- 4        2028.
- 5        This act would take effect upon passage.

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