

2026 -- H 7282

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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

A N A C T

**RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- STATE CRIME LABORATORY
COMMISSION**

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

Date Introduced: January 23, 2026

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 12-1.1-4 and 12-1.1-6 of the General Laws in Chapter 12-1.1 entitled

2 "State Crime Laboratory Commission" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **12-1.1-4. Membership.**

4 (a) The commission shall consist of ~~five (5)~~ nine (9) members: the attorney general; the

5 superintendent of state police; ~~and the chief justice of the Rhode Island supreme court; the president~~

6 of the Rhode Island Bar Association; the public defender; the president of the Rhode Island

7 Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers; a representative of the Rhode Island Police Chiefs

8 Association appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate; and two (2) public

9 members appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate. Appointed public

10 members shall serve two (2) year terms and shall be eligible to succeed themselves.

11 (b) Members shall serve until their successors are appointed and qualified. Each member

12 of the board may designate a subordinate within his or her department or agency to represent him

13 or her at all meetings of the board. Three (3) members of the board shall constitute a quorum and

14 the vote of a majority of those present and voting shall be required for action.

15 (c) Members of the commission shall be removable by the governor pursuant to the

16 provisions of § 36-1-7 of the general laws and for cause only, and removal solely for partisan or

17 personal reasons unrelated to capacity or fitness for the office shall be unlawful.

18 **12-1.1-6. Executive secretary Co-executive secretaries.**

1 The ~~dean~~ deans of the ~~College~~ Colleges of Pharmacy and Engineering at the University of
2 Rhode Island shall serve as the ~~executive secretary~~ co-executive secretaries of the commission. ~~The~~
3 ~~executive secretary~~ and shall oversee the administration of the state crime laboratory, including all
4 budgetary and personnel matters, and shall provide timely reports to the commission regarding all
5 matters pertaining to the state crime laboratory.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- STATE CRIME LABORATORY
COMMISSION

- 1 This act would increase the membership of the state crime laboratory commission from
- 2 five (5) to nine (9). It adds the chief justice of the Rhode Island supreme court, the presidents of
- 3 the state bar association and the Rhode Island criminal defense association and the public defender.
- 4 The act would also add the dean of the college of engineering as a co-executive secretary of the
- 5 commission.

- 6 This act would take effect upon passage.

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