

**2026 -- H 7287**

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LC004277

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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 STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY  
GENERAL**

Introduced By: Representatives Nardone, Place, Chippendale, and Newberry

Date Introduced: January 23, 2026

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1        **SECTION 1.** Sections 42-9-2 and 42-9-19.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-9 entitled

2        "Department of Attorney General" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3        **42-9-2. Powers and duties of department — Division of juvenile prosecution**  
4        **established.**

5                (a) The attorney general, the assistant attorneys general, and those special assistant  
6        attorneys general who have been designated by the attorney general, shall exercise the powers and  
7        duties prescribed in and shall enforce the provisions of this chapter and of §§ 12-1-4 — 12-1-12,  
8        and in all other provisions of the general laws and public laws insofar as they relate to the powers  
9        and duties of the attorney general. The attorney general shall file notice with the secretary of state  
10      and the clerk of the superior court. The attorney general, assistant attorneys general, and those  
11      special assistant attorneys general shall only have, and be limited by, the powers and duties  
12      prescribed to them by the general and public laws.

13                (b) There shall be established within the department of attorney general a division of  
14        juvenile prosecution which shall prosecute all delinquency petitions based on the commission of  
15        any offense which if committed by an adult would constitute a capital offense, all delinquency  
16        petitions based on the commission of an offense which if committed by an adult would constitute  
17        the offense of assault with intent to commit a capital offense, all delinquency petitions based upon  
18        the commission of an offense which if committed by an adult would constitute the offense of

1 manslaughter, and all assault offenses which if committed by an adult would constitute a felony.  
2 The division of juvenile prosecution shall also have jurisdiction to file petitions pursuant to §§ 14-  
3 1-7 and 14-1-7.1.

4 **42-9-19.1. Acceptance of settlements — Non-multi-state initiatives — Attorney**  
5 **general settlement restricted account.**

6 (a) There is hereby established a restricted receipt account within the department of  
7 attorney general entitled “attorney general non-multi-state initiative restricted-receipt account.”  
8 Funds consisting of attorneys’ fees previously recovered pursuant to the Distributors — Rhode  
9 Island Settlement Agreement resolving opioid-related claims against McKesson Corporation,  
10 Cardinal Health, Inc., and/or AmerisourceBergen Corporation in the case State of Rhode Island v.  
11 Purdue Pharma L.P. et al., CA No. PC-2018-4455, shall be deposited into this restricted receipt  
12 account.

13 (b) The following funds shall also be deposited into this restricted receipt account:  
14 (1) All future attorneys’ fees recovered from the case referenced in subsection (a) of this  
15 section; and

16 (2) Twenty percent (20%) of attorneys’ fees recovered in other non-multi-state initiatives.  
17 (c) This restricted receipt account shall be used to pay for staff and other operational  
18 expenses of the department.

19 (d) Expenditures from this restricted receipt account shall be subject to the annual  
20 appropriation process and approval by the general assembly.

21 (e) All settlement proceeds from non-multi-state initiatives, except those deposited in this  
22 restricted receipt account pursuant to this section, shall be deposited into the general fund. No  
23 settlement proceeds shall be directed or appropriated to any party without the express authorization  
24 of the general assembly.

25 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 STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY  
GENERAL

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- 1        This act would clarify the process of depositing settlement funds from non-multi-state
- 2        initiatives and require that settlements could not be spent without express general assembly
- 3        authorization.
- 4        This act would take effect upon passage.

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