

2026 -- H 8296

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

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A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- RAILROAD, STEAMBOAT, AND BRIDGE
POLICE

Introduced By: Representatives Read, Noret, Casey, Casimiro, Paplauskas, and Voas

Date Introduced: March 13, 2026

Referred To: House State Government & Elections

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 12-2 of the General Laws entitled "Railroad, Steamboat, and Bridge
2 Police" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **12-2-9. Privacy protections for railway employees.**

4 (a) Any police report involving a railroad fatality and all communications between police
5 officers and railroad crew members involved in such fatality, shall not be made public and shall be
6 maintained by the police department that responds to such fatality, in a manner that shall ensure
7 confidentiality; provided, however, that all such reports shall be accessible at all reasonable times,
8 upon written request, to:

9 (1) The host railroad;

10 (2) The railroad of employ of any employee mentioned in such reports; and

11 (3) Any other person authorized by judicial order to obtain such information, if access to
12 such report is necessary in the performance of their duties; and provided, further, that all such
13 reports shall be accessible at all reasonable times, upon written or electronic mail request to law
14 enforcement officers, or the office of attorney general.

15 (b) Communications between police officers and railroad employees concerning any
16 railroad fatality incident may be shared with any person listed in subsection (a) of this section, if
17 such access is necessary to the performance of their duties.

18 (c) A violation of this section shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than one

1 [year or by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars \(\\$1,000\), or both.](#)

2 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 provide any police report and all communications between railroad
2 employees involving a railroad fatality not be made public. Additionally, this act would make a
3 violation of this section a misdemeanor.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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