

2025 -- S 0544

LC000495

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- MOTOR VEHICLE OFFENSES

Introduced By: Senators Raptakis, Tikoian, Patalano, Appollonio, and Burke

Date Introduced: February 26, 2025

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 31-27-4.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-27 entitled "Motor
2 Vehicle Offenses" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **31-27-4.1. Eluding a law enforcement officer with a motor vehicle in a high speed**
4 **pursuit.**

5 Any person who in an attempt to elude or flee from a police officer in an emergency police
6 vehicle in a high speed pursuit of the person, operates a motor vehicle at speeds greater than fifteen
7 (15) miles per hour over the speed limit, or who causes property damage only in excess of one
8 thousand dollars (\$1,000) shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a felony and shall be imprisoned for
9 not more than five (5) years at the adult correctional institutions (ACI), and/or be subject to a fine
10 of not less than five thousand dollars (\$5,000), but not more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000),
11 and may have their license suspended for not less than one year, but not more than two (2) years,
12 may be subject to the forfeiture of the motor vehicle.;

13 ~~(1) For the first conviction, may be subject to the following sanctions:~~

14 ~~(i) Up to one year incarceration at the adult correction institutions (A.C.I.) and a fine of~~
15 ~~five hundred dollars (\$500) but not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000);~~

16 ~~(ii) License suspension of not less than ninety (90) days but not more than six (6) months~~
17 ~~and forfeiture of the motor vehicle.~~

18 ~~(2) For a second or subsequent conviction, the person shall:~~

19 ~~(i) Be sentenced to two (2) years at the A.C.I., but not more than five (5) years;~~

- 1 ~~(ii) Be fined a fine of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) but not more than five thousand dollars~~
2 ~~(\$5,000);~~
3 ~~(iii) Receive a license suspension of not less than one year but not more than five (5) years;~~
4 ~~and~~
5 ~~(iv) Forfeit the motor vehicle.~~

6 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 increase the penalty for anyone found guilty of eluding a police vehicle in
2 high speed pursuit to a felony punishable by up to five (5) years imprisonment, a fine of between
3 five thousand dollars (\$5,000) and ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), a loss of license from one to two
4 (2) years, and a possible forfeiture of their motor vehicle.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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