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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

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A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- THREATS AND EXTORTION

Introduced By: Senators Appollonio, Burke, Raptakis, Thompson, and Dimitri

Date Introduced: March 14, 2025

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 11-42-4 of the General Laws in Chapter 11-42 entitled "Threats and  
2   Extortion" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3           **11-42-4. Threats to public officials.**

4           (a) Whoever knowingly and willfully delivers or conveys, directly or indirectly, a verbal  
5   or written threat to take the life of, or to inflict bodily harm upon, a public official or a member of  
6   his or her immediate family because of the performance or nonperformance of some public duty;  
7   because of hostility of the person making the threat toward the status or position of the public  
8   official; or because of some other factor related to the official’s public existence, shall be guilty of  
9   a felony and shall be imprisoned for not more than five (5) years, or fined not more than five  
10   thousand dollars (\$5,000), or both.

11          (b) For purposes of this section:

12          (1) “Public official” means a person who is elected or appointed to office in accordance  
13   with the constitution, a statute, or a city or town charter, [or who is a state government caseworker](#)  
14   [or investigator](#), or who is a judge, magistrate, assistant attorney general, special assistant attorney  
15   general, or law enforcement officer, or in the case of an elective office, any person who has filed  
16   the required documents for nomination or election to that office or who is appointed by the governor  
17   to serve as the director or his or her designee of a state department that is established and the  
18   qualifications and duties of which are prescribed by statute to discharge a public duty for the state  
19   of Rhode Island;

- 1           (2) “Immediate family” means a public official’s spouse, child, or children.
- 2           (3) "State government caseworker" means a social worker who helps individuals, families,
- 3 and children find and access government resources.
- 4           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 consider state government caseworkers or investigators "public officials"
- 2   for purposes of the prohibition on making threats to public officials.
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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