

2026 -- S 2302

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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 CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- OBSTRUCTING JUSTICE**

Introduced By: Senators Dimitri, Patalano, Thompson, Tikoian, Famiglietti, Burke, Rogers, Appollonio, Paolino, and de la Cruz  
Date Introduced: January 23, 2026

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1        SECTION 1. Section 11-32-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 11-32 entitled "Obstructing  
2        Justice" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3        **11-32-2. False report of crime False report of crime or official misconduct.**

4        (a) Every person who shall knowingly make or cause to be made, whether oral or written,  
5        a false statement of a:

6            (1) A crime, either oral or written, with intent that it be relied upon by a police officer of  
7        any city or town or by any member of the state police;:

8            (2) An official formal complaint of misconduct by any law enforcement personnel and/or  
9        law enforcement department/agency; or

10           (3) An official formal complaint of misconduct by emergency personnel and/or emergency  
11        department/agent; shall be deemed guilty of obstructing an officer a misdemeanor and shall be  
12        imprisoned not exceeding one year and/or be fined not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500), and  
13        shall in addition to this imprisonment and/or fine be ordered to make restitution to the person falsely  
14        accused of a crime or misconduct for any damage which the person sustained as a result of the false  
15        complaint.

16           (b) For purposes of this section:

17           (1) "Law enforcement" means any permanently employed city or town police officer, state  
18        police officer, public safety officer, sheriff, or capitol police officer.

19           (2) "Emergency personnel" means emergency services officials, first aid, emergency

1        medical technicians and personnel, fire safety officials and hospital staff.

2            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 OFFENSES -- OBSTRUCTING JUSTICE

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- 1        This act would make it a misdemeanor to knowingly file a false report of misconduct of
- 2        any law enforcement official, public safety official, or hospital staff.
- 3        This act would take effect upon passage.

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