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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO PROPERTY -- PUBLIC AUCTIONS OF REAL ESTATE

Introduced By: Senators Patalano, Dimitri, Ciccone, LaMountain, Tikoian, Famiglietti,  
Quezada, Appollonio, Thompson, and Raptakis  
Date Introduced: January 30, 2026

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Purpose

2 The purpose of this act is to bring greater public scrutiny to the public auction sales of real  
3 estate in Rhode Island.

4 SECTION 2. Title 34 of the General Laws entitled "PROPERTY" is hereby amended by  
5 adding thereto the following chapter:

6 CHAPTER 51

7 PUBLIC AUCTIONS OF REAL ESTATE

8 **34-51-1. Public auctions of real estate.**

9 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, public auctions by any city or town  
10 of real estate or an interest therein shall only be done in person at the time and place specified in  
11 the legal advertisement, and in accordance with Rhode Island statutes that govern said sales, to  
12 include, but not be limited to, the provisions of chapter 9 of title 44.

13 (b) No public auction of real estate or an interest therein shall be done by electronic or  
14 remote procedures unless authorized by court order of the Rhode Island superior court, after hearing  
15 thereon and a finding that an in-person auction is not feasible under the circumstances of the  
16 specific case.

1           SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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RELATING TO PROPERTY -- PUBLIC AUCTIONS OF REAL ESTATE

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- 1           This act would require public auctions by any city or town of real estate or an interest  
2   therein to only be done in person and not by electronic or remote procedures unless authorized by  
3   court order.  
4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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