

2026 -- S 2398

=====
LC004357
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- OBSTRUCTING JUSTICE

Introduced By: Senators Dimitri, Famiglietti, Patalano, Appollonio, Tikoian, Thompson,
Burke, Rogers, and Paolino
Date Introduced: January 30, 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.**

4 (a) Every person who shall knowingly make or cause to be made a false statement of a
5 crime, either oral or written, with intent that it be relied upon by a police officer of any city or town
6 or by any member of the state police, shall be deemed guilty of obstructing an officer and shall be
7 imprisoned not exceeding one year and/or be fined not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500), and
8 shall in addition to this imprisonment and/or fine be ordered to make restitution to the person falsely
9 accused of a crime for any damage which the person sustained as a result of the false complaint.

10 (b) Every person who shall knowingly make or cause to be made a false statement of a
11 crime that carries a sentence of imprisonment of not less than five (5) years nor more than twenty
12 (20) years, either oral or written, with intent that it be relied upon by a police officer of any city or
13 town or by any member of the state police, shall be deemed guilty of a felony and, upon conviction,
14 shall be imprisoned not less than one year nor more than five (5) years.

15 (c) Every person who shall knowingly make or cause to be made a false statement of a
16 crime that carries a sentence of imprisonment of not less than twenty (20) years, either oral or
17 written, with intent that it be relied upon by a police officer of any city or town or by any member
18 of the state police, shall be deemed guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, shall be imprisoned not
19 less than five (5) years nor more than twenty (20) years.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

=====
LC004357
=====

EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- OBSTRUCTING JUSTICE

- 1 This act would make it a felony to file a false police report of a crime carrying a sentence
2 of imprisonment of not less than five (5) years nor more than twenty (20) years, and would carry a
3 sentence of imprisonment of not less than one year nor more than five (5) years for filing such false
4 report. This act would further make it a felony to file a false police report of a crime carrying a
5 sentence of imprisonment of twenty (20) years or more, and would carry a sentence of
6 imprisonment of not less than five (5) years nor more than twenty (20) years for filing such false
7 report.
8 This act would take effect upon passage.

=====
LC004357
=====