

2024 -- H 7835

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LC005248  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

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A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- RAILROAD, STEAMBOAT, AND BRIDGE  
POLICE

Introduced By: Representatives Finkelman, Shanley, Baginski, O'Brien, Morales, Vella-  
Wilkinson, and Perez

Date Introduced: March 01, 2024

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 12-2 of the General Laws entitled "Railroad, Steamboat, and Bridge  
2 Police" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **12-2-9. Privacy protections for railway employees.**

4 (a) Any police report involving a railroad fatality and all communications between police  
5 officers and railroad crew members involved in such fatality shall not be made public and shall be  
6 maintained by the police department that responds to such fatality in a manner that shall ensure  
7 confidentiality; provided, however, that all such reports shall be accessible at all reasonable times,  
8 upon written request, to:

9 (1) The host railroad;

10 (2) The railroad of employ of any employee mentioned in such reports; and

11 (3) Any other person authorized by judicial order to obtain such information if access to  
12 such report is necessary in the performance of their duties; and provided, further, that all such  
13 reports shall be accessible at all reasonable times, upon written or electronic mail request to law  
14 enforcement officers, or the office of attorney general.

15 (b) Communications between police officers and railroad employees concerning any  
16 railroad fatality incident may be shared with any person listed in subsection (a) of this section if  
17 such access is necessary to the performance of their duties.

18 (c) A violation of this section shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than one

1 [year or by a fine of not more than ten thousand dollars \(\\$10,000\), or both.](#)

2 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 provide any police report involving a railroad fatality and all  
2           communications between railroad employees not be made public. Additionally, this act would  
3           make a violation of this section a misdemeanor.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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