



RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 283

EFFECTIVE June 15, 2025

WHEREAS, Despite having the second highest probation rate and the third longest average probation sentence, Rhode Island has the fourth highest recidivism rate and can be considered a by-word for the imprecision of mere severity in criminal justice; and

WHEREAS, District Court Rule 32F treats “failing to keep the peace” or “remaining on good behavior” as probation violations, making any new arrest or charge cause for reincarceration whether the offense would otherwise warrant it; and

WHEREAS, Such a rule has produced a costly, imprecise, and unjust system with prehearing detentions exceeding explicit limits and cyclical reincarceration amid the adjudication of charges, all driven by the denial of bail to between 61 and 66 percent of alleged probation violators; and

WHEREAS, House Bill-6041 and its Senate companion Senate Bill-0733 would reform for those on probation, requiring the alleged probation violator to be granted bail when the crime is not a crime of violence; and

WHEREAS, Such a reform would direct resources and effort on those whose alleged crimes truly necessitate them based on a determination derived from the totality of circumstances, including the alleged facts of the new offense; and

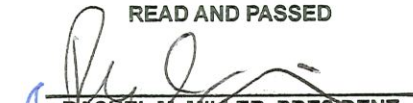
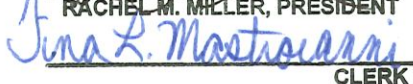
WHEREAS, The result would relieve both taxpayers of needless costs and those alleged to have violated their probation of unjust and disruptive incarceration for crimes otherwise not requiring it; and

WHEREAS, The Providence City Council wishes to convey its gratitude to the Rhode Island General Assembly for its sincere consideration of this vital issue.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT BE RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council strongly supports H-6041 and its Senate companion S-0733 and urges that it be passed by the General Assembly and enacted duly; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage, copies of this resolution be transmitted to lead sponsors Representative Jose Batista and Senator Meghan Kallman, Speaker of the Rhode Island House of Representatives K. Joseph Shekarchi, President of the Rhode Island Senate Valarie J. Lawson, and the remainder of the Providence Delegation.

IN CITY COUNCIL
JUN 05 2025
READ AND PASSED


RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT

CLERK

Effective without the
Mayor's Signature



Tina L. Mastroianni
City Clerk

2025 -- H 6041

LC002335

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- SENTENCE AND EXECUTION

Introduced By: Representatives Batista, Felix, J. Lombardi, Potter, Cruz, Stewart, Alzate,
Morales, Shanley, and Solomon

Date Introduced: March 07, 2025

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 12-19-14 of the General Laws in Chapter 12-19 entitled "Sentence
2 and Execution" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **12-19-14. Violation of terms of probation — Notice to court — Revocation or**
4 **continuation of suspension.**

5 (a)(1) Whenever any person who has been placed on probation by virtue of the suspension
6 of execution of his or her sentence pursuant to § 12-19-13 violates the terms and conditions of his
7 or her probation as fixed by the court by being formally charged with committing a new criminal
8 offense, the police or department of corrections division of rehabilitative services shall cause the
9 defendant to appear before the court. The department of corrections division of rehabilitative
10 services shall determine when a technical violation of the terms and conditions of probation as fixed
11 by the court that does not constitute a new criminal offense has occurred and shall cause the
12 defendant to appear before the court. For technical violations, the division of rehabilitative services
13 shall promptly render a written report relative to the conduct of the defendant, including, as
14 applicable, a description of the clear and articulable public safety risk posed by a defendant accused
15 of a technical violation, and, as available, the information contained in any report under § 12-13-
16 24.1. The division of rehabilitative services may recommend that the time served up to that point
17 is a sufficient response to a violation that is not a new, alleged crime. ~~The court may order the~~
18 ~~defendant held without bail for a period not exceeding ten (10) days excluding Saturdays, Sundays,~~
19 ~~and holidays if the new criminal charge(s) constitutes a violent crime as defined in the Rhode Island~~

1 ~~General Laws, a domestic violence crime, or a crime involving driving under the influence or if the~~
2 ~~court determines in its discretion that public safety concerns and/or concerns regarding the~~
3 ~~defendant's likelihood to appear before the court warrant holding the defendant without bail.~~

4 (2) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, the court shall set reasonable bail
5 and may set other reasonable conditions of release. In determining the bail and conditions, the
6 alleged probation violator shall have the presumption that the bail on the alleged violation shall be
7 set at personal recognizance; provided, the court may require surety bail if, based on the totality of
8 the circumstances including, but not limited to, the alleged probation violator's age, condition of
9 health, criminal record and the alleged facts of the new offense, and bail set of the new offense,
10 that no other alternative will ensure the appearance of the accused in court or ensure the safety of
11 the community.

12 (3) In the event the alleged probation violator is accused of committing a crime of violence,
13 as defined in this section, the alleged probation violator may be held without bail if the court
14 determines, based on the totality of the circumstances including, but not limited to, the alleged
15 probation violator's age, condition of health, criminal record, the alleged facts of the new offense,
16 and bail set on the new offense, that no other alternative will ensure the appearance of the accused
17 in court or ensure the safety of the community.

18 (4) For purposes of this section, "crime of violence" means murder, manslaughter, first
19 degree arson, kidnapping with intent to extort, first and second-degree robbery, first degree sexual
20 assault, first and second-degree child molestation, assault with intent to commit first degree sexual
21 assault, burglary, and entering a dwelling house with intent to commit murder, robbery, sexual
22 assault or larceny and any domestic crime that has an element of violence.

23 (b) The court shall conduct a hearing within thirty (30) days of arrest, unless waived by the
24 defendant, to determine whether the defendant has violated the terms and conditions of his or her
25 probation, at which hearing the defendant shall have the opportunity to be present and to respond.
26 Upon a determination by a fair preponderance of the evidence that the defendant has violated the
27 terms and conditions of his or her probation, the court, in open court and in the presence of the
28 defendant, may as to the court may seem just and proper:

29 (1) Revoke the suspension and order the defendant committed on the sentence previously
30 imposed, or on a lesser sentence;

31 (2) Impose a sentence if one has not been previously imposed;

32 (3) Stay all or a portion of the sentence imposed after removal of the suspension;

33 (4) Continue the suspension of a sentence previously imposed; or

34 (5) Convert a sentence of probation without incarceration to a suspended sentence.

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

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LC002335
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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- SENTENCE AND EXECUTION

1 This act would require the court to set reasonable bail for all those individuals who appear
2 before it as probation violators and establish a presumption of personal recognizance unless the
3 new alleged offense is a crime of violence as defined in the act.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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LC002335
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- SENTENCE AND EXECUTION

Introduced By: Senators Kallman, Mack, Euer, Acosta, McKenney, Murray, Lauria, DiMario, and Paolino

Date Introduced: March 07, 2025

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

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2 and Execution" is hereby amended to read as follows:

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4 (2) The court shall set reasonable bail and may set other reasonable conditions of release.
5 In determining the bail and conditions, the alleged probation violator shall have the presumption
6 that the bail shall be set at personal recognizance; provided, in the event that the alleged probation
7 violator is accused of committing a crime of violence, as defined in this section, the alleged
8 probation violator may be held without bail if the court determines that, based on the totality of the
9 circumstances, including, but not limited to, the alleged probation violator's age, condition of
10 health, criminal record and the alleged facts of the new offense, there are no conditions or
11 combination of conditions of release that will ensure the appearance of the accused in court or
12 ensure the safety of the community.

13 (3) For purposes of this section, "crime of violence" means murder, manslaughter, first
14 degree arson, kidnapping with intent to extort, first and second-degree robbery, first degree sexual
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BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
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