

2015 -- H 6240

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

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A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- BAIL AND RECOGNIZANCE

Introduced By: Representatives Canario, McNamara, Almeida, Edwards, and Hull

Date Introduced: May 22, 2015

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 12-13-10, 12-13-16 and 12-13-16.1 of the General Laws in
2 Chapter 12-13 entitled "Bail and Recognizance" are hereby amended to read as follows:
3 **12-13-10. Deposit of money in lieu of bail. --** Any person who is held in custody or
4 committed upon a criminal charge, if entitled to be released on bail, may at any time, instead of
5 giving surety or sureties, in the discretion of the court, give before the court in which he or she is
6 held to appear his or her personal recognizance to appear and do as ordered by the court, and shall
7 be allowed to deposit, either individually or by another on his or her behalf, with the court in
8 money ten percent (10%) of the amount of bail which he or she is ordered to furnish, and the
9 justice or clerk of the court shall give him or her a certificate, and upon delivery of the certificate
10 to the officer in whose custody he or she is shall be released from custody, and the money shall be
11 deposited in the registry of the court before which the person shall be recognized to appear.
12 Consistent with Article 1, § 9 of the Rhode Island Constitution the giving of surety or in the
13 alternative the deposit with the court of ten percent (10%) of the amount of bail set shall be the
14 sole monetary conditions of the release on bail, except as set forth herein. No court shall require
15 the deposit of cash as the sole monetary condition of the release on bail, except in those cases
16 where the defendant owes court-imposed restitution. Upon the default of the defendant the court
17 before which he or she is recognized to appear may, at any time thereafter, order the money
18 deposited in the registry of the court ~~or in the discretion of the court the entire amount of the bail~~
19 ~~set to be~~ forfeited, and the money shall be paid to the general treasurer. If money has been

1 deposited and the defendant at any time before forfeiture shall appear before the court to which he
2 or she was recognized to appear, and shall surrender himself or herself, or shall recognize before
3 the court with sufficient surety or sureties, in such an amount, to appear and do as the court may
4 order, or be in any manner legally discharged, then the court shall order the return of the deposit
5 to the defendant. If the money remains on deposit at the time of a judgment for the payment of a
6 fine and costs, restitution, or any other assessment issued by the court, the clerk must apply the
7 money in satisfaction of the judgment, and after satisfying the fine and costs, restitution, or any
8 other assessment must refund the surplus, if any, to the defendant or to the individual who posted
9 the money on behalf of the defendant, as the case may be.

10 **12-13-16. Process on default of recognizance.** -- (a) Whenever any person under
11 recognizance shall fail to perform the condition of his or her recognizance, or failed to appear as
12 required by the terms and conditions of his or her bail or recognizance, the default shall be
13 recorded and process shall be issued against the persons bound in the recognizance, or those of
14 them as the attorney general shall direct.

15 (b) No process for forfeiture of bail nor any petition for forfeiture of bail may be filed, by
16 the attorney general or his or her designee or otherwise initiated prior to the expiration of forty-
17 five (45) days after any warrant issued by any court has been entered into the court's database, the
18 database of the bureau of criminal identification (BCI) for the state of Rhode Island and the
19 database for the National Crime Information Center (NCIC).

20 **12-13-16.1. Forfeiture of bail.** -- (a) In any criminal case, whenever, after a hearing, it
21 has been shown to the satisfaction of the court that the defendant has left the jurisdiction of the
22 court or has failed to appear as required or has failed to perform the condition of his or her
23 recognizance, the court shall order that the bail and/or any security for bail be forfeited.

24 (b) Provided however that any person who has had bail posted with the assistance of a
25 licensed bondsperson, and who is subsequently arrested on a bench warrant and brought before
26 the court, or who fails to appear and is subsequently brought before the court without the
27 intervention of or through a licensed bondsperson, shall not be released by the court on the same
28 bail unless and until the licensed bondsperson who posted the original bail has been notified and
29 been provided an opportunity to be heard regarding the licensed bondsperson's willingness to
30 continue as surety for the defendant/bailee. The court may however release the defendant within
31 twenty-four (24) hours if the licensed bondsperson cannot be located or otherwise fails to appear
32 to address the court relative to the original bail.

33 SECTION 2. Chapter 12-13 of the General Laws entitled "Bail and Recognizance" is
34 hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

1 **12-13-16.2. Forfeiture of bail -- Licensed bondsperson. --** (a) In any criminal case,
2 whenever a forfeiture of bail has been ordered pursuant to § 12-13-16.1 and where the bail and/or
3 security for bail has been posted by a licensed bondsperson registered with the court, the court
4 shall only order an amount to be forfeited up to but not more than ten percent (10%) of the
5 original bail set and pledged as surety.

6 (b) Subsequent to any forfeiture of bail pursuant to § 12-13-16.2(a) and prior to the
7 forfeiture of further surety pledged by a licensed bondsperson provided herein, the court shall:

8 (1) Provide the licensed bondsperson a period of time equal to six (6) months to return
9 the fugitive to the court before further pledged surety shall be forfeited. Before ordering further
10 forfeiture the court shall conduct a hearing and provide the licensed bondsperson an opportunity
11 to demonstrate all reasonable actions the bondsperson took to locate, apprehend, and return the
12 fugitive to the court. The court shall consider the due diligence of the licensed bondsperson in
13 determining how much, if any, of the remaining amount of surety the bondsperson shall be
14 ordered to forfeit for the failure or inability to locate, apprehend and return the fugitive to the
15 court. The court at that time may provide the licensed bondsperson with additional time in which
16 to locate and return the fugitive.

17 (2) In the event that the licensed bondsperson fails or is unable to locate and return the
18 fugitive, the court may order the forfeiture of the balance of any surety deposited by the
19 bondsperson less reasonable expenses incurred by the bondsperson in attempting to locate and
20 apprehend the fugitive.

21 (3) The bondsperson shall be responsible to pay all fees and costs associated with the
22 entry of any warrant into the BCI or the NCIC prior to its entry into either database as required in
23 §12-13-16(b). Upon request of the bondsperson, the clerk of the court shall provide a certified
24 copy of the arrest warrant to the bondsperson without charge to insure the bondsperson's ability
25 to locate, apprehend and return the fugitive from outside the state of Rhode Island.

26 SECTION 3. 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 PROCEDURE -- BAIL AND RECOGNIZANCE

1 This act would limit the amount of bail that may be forfeited by the court upon a
2 defendant's violation of the terms and conditions of his or her bail, to ten percent of the surety
3 deposited with the court and would provide a licensed bondsperson additional time in which to
4 locate and return a fugitive to the court before ordering further forfeiture of any surety posted. It
5 would provide that the attorney general be prevented from filing a petition or beginning process
6 to forfeit bail until at least forty-five (45) days have passed from the entry of an arrest warrant
7 into the court's database and the databases of the Bureau of Criminal Identification and National
8 Crime Information Center. In the event that the licensed bondsperson fails or is unable to locate
9 and return the fugitive to the court, the court may order the forfeiture of the balance of any surety
10 deposited by the bondsperson less reasonable expenses incurred in attempting to return the
11 fugitive.

12 This act would take effect upon passage.

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