

2024 -- H 7972

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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 OFFENSES -- PUBLIC UTILITIES

Introduced By: Representatives Fogarty, Handy, Noret, Hull, J. Lombardi, Tanzi, Fellela,
Boylan, Alzate, and Cortvriend

Date Introduced: March 05, 2024

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 11-35-18 of the General Laws in Chapter 11-35 entitled "Public
2 Utilities" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **11-35-18. Bomb threats and similar false reports.**

4 (a) Whoever, knowing the report to be false, transmits or causes to be transmitted to any
5 person by telephone or other means a communication falsely reporting, warning, or threatening
6 either the ~~location~~ existence of any explosive or other dangerous substance or contrivance, or a
7 shooting or other dangerous event or happening, at a location causing terror, anxiety, unrest, fear,
8 or personal discomfort by that false report, warning, or threat to any person or group of persons, or
9 prompting an evacuation or lockdown of a location or other law enforcement response, shall be
10 guilty of a felony and shall be punished by imprisonment at the adult correctional institutions for
11 not more than ten (10) years, or by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by
12 both fine and imprisonment.

13 (b) For any person charged under subsection (a) of this section, the court may consider any
14 factors, including whether the person poses a danger to an individual, the community, or the
15 defendant, when making bail determinations, and may impose any reasonable conditions or court
16 order including, but not limited to:

17 (1) An extreme risk protection order pursuant to the provisions of chapter 8.3 of title 8;

18 (2) A no trespass order for any educational, religious, or public institution or building;

19 (3) A mental health assessment and/or a referral for mental health treatment; and/or

1 [\(4\) Substance abuse counseling.](#)

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 expand the crime of false reporting to include shootings or other dangerous
2 events.

3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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