

2024 -- H 7743

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- TRIAL

Introduced By: Representatives Noret, Kazarian, Vella-Wilkinson, Edwards, Corvese,
Hull, Caldwell, Bennett, Cardillo, and Phillips

Date Introduced: February 28, 2024

Referred To: House Judiciary

(Attorney General)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 12-17-3 of the General Laws in Chapter 12-17 entitled "Trial" is
2 hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **12-17-3. Waiver of jury trial — Special findings and rulings.**

4 In all criminal cases the accused may, if he or she shall so elect and with the leave of the
5 court, and for cases before the superior court, with the consent of the attorney general, waive a trial
6 by jury, and in those cases the court shall have jurisdiction to hear and try the cause without a jury
7 and render judgment and pass sentence. In cases so tried the court shall, upon request of the accused,
8 make special finding upon any issue of fact and special ruling upon any question of law arising in
9 the case.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- TRIAL

- 1 This act would allow a criminal defendant before the superior court to waive their right to
- 2 a jury trial with the consent of the attorney general.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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