

2020 -- H 7894

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LC004491  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

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A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE - TRIAL

Introduced By: Representatives Place, Filippi, Lyle, Chippendale, and Knight

Date Introduced: February 26, 2020

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 12-17 of the General Laws entitled "Trial" is hereby amended by  
2 adding thereto the following section:

3           **12-17-20. Jury nullification as proper argument.**

4           During any trial on any criminal matter before a jury, counsel for the defendant shall have  
5 the right to argue that the jury should take into consideration not just the law, but the facts, the  
6 nature of the charge, and whether the law the defendant is charged with violating is morally  
7 repugnant, outdated or unfair to the citizenry and those accused of violating the law.

8           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

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- 1 This act would allow counsel in a criminal trial to argue jury nullification as a defense.
- 2 This act would take effect upon passage.

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