



State of Rhode Island
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE
State Police Headquarters, 311 Danielson Pike, North Scituate, Rhode Island 02857
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT AND DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Colonel James M. Manni
Superintendent

March 1, 2021

The Honorable Evan P. Shanley, Chair
House State Government and Elections Committee
Rhode Island House of Representatives
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: *HB-5596 - An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government—Statewide Public Safety Computer Aided Dispatch Records Management System*

Dear Chairperson Shanley:

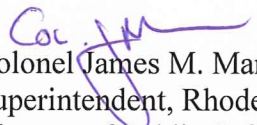
As Director of the Rhode Island Department of Public Safety and Superintendent of the Rhode Island State Police, I fully support the creation of a statewide records management system to be installed, operated and maintained by the Rhode Island Department of Public Safety. This proposed legislation is necessary to keep up with today's advancing technology. As it stands, the current records management system used by nearly every state and local law enforcement agency is at, or has already exceeded, its technology lifecycle. A decision must be made about the direction each state and local law enforcement agency will take with its records management system. If the current proposal does not pass, there is a real concern that each local department will begin to choose different replacement systems. In the interests of public safety, state and local law enforcement agencies should use the same system. Especially in the state the geographic size of Rhode Island, sharing the same records management system allows agencies to serve our community more effectively. For instance, in Rhode Island, local law enforcement agencies send their future officers to the Rhode Island municipal police academy. This academy falls within the Rhode Island Department of Public Safety. It would be impractical, if not impossible, to train future municipal police officers on multiple types of records management systems.

Although House Bill 5596 - An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government—Statewide Public Safety Computer Aided Dispatch Records Management System, as written, may need to be slightly amended to address a separation of powers issue, I pledge to work with the sponsors of the bill, this committee and members of future Governor McKee's administration to review and recommend appropriate changes to HB 5596.

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I thank you for the opportunity to express the position of the Rhode Island Department of Public Safety on the legislation currently before the House Committee on State Government and Elections, HB 5596 - An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government—Statewide Public Safety Computer Aided Dispatch Records Management System. For the foregoing reasons, I am in support of this legislation.

Respectfully,


Colonel James M. Manni
Superintendent, Rhode Island State Police
Director of Public Safety

cc: House Committee on State Government and Elections
Governor's Office
Major Laurie Ludovici
Adam Sholes, Esq., DPS General Counsel