



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

**DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES**  
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April 14, 2021

The Honorable Joseph M. McNamara  
Chair, House Committee on Education  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: 2021 H-6179- AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES  
- DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES**

Dear Chairperson McNamara:

The Division of Motor Vehicles ("DMV") writes in support of House Bill 6179, An Act Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles-Division of Motor Vehicles.

The proposed bill seeks to codify many of the provisions of Executive Order 21-02, which is currently extended through April 29, 2021 by Executive Order 21-30, that have allowed the Rhode Island Department of Education ("RIDE") to utilize student transportation providers registered in Massachusetts and Connecticut to address the shortage of drivers and student transportation vehicles licensed and registered in Rhode Island that were available to transport students to and from school during the 2020-2021 school year because of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

The DMV collaborated extensively with the Governor's Office and RIDE on the student transportation Executive Orders to help ensure that adequate student transportation was available, and continues to remain available, for students to be transported to schools for in-person learning. We are proud of the small part we have played in helping to provide some degree of normalcy for students whose lives, like all our lives, were upended during this tumultuous last year. The Executive Orders strike a balance between the need to provide critical student transportation services with the State's duty to ensure its students are being transported in a safe and secure manner.

The proposed bill would continue to strike this proper balance by requiring Massachusetts and Connecticut drivers and student transportation vehicles to obtain the appropriate Rhode Island license and registration, inspection, and insurance within thirty (30) days after the date they begin operating in Rhode Island. RIDE would continue to be afforded the flexibility to address immediately

The Honorable Joseph M. McNamara  
April 14, 2021  
2021 H-6179  
Page 2

a shortage in providers brought about by a future public health emergency or other disaster and the time period in which sanctions taken against Massachusetts and Connecticut drivers and student transportation vehicles that disqualify them from transporting Rhode Island students may escape the notice of RIDE and the DMV would continue to be minimized.

The DMV is committed to providing to RIDE the assistance it needs in addressing future student transportation provider shortages. This bill facilitates the achievement of this cross-agency cooperation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Walter R. Craddock, Esq., CFP®  
Administrator

Cc: Honorable Thomas E. Noret  
Honorable Members of the House Committee on Education  
Nicole McCarty, Chief Legal Counsel