



**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**  
**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF COMMERCE**

*Submitted via email*

March 4, 2025

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.  
Chair, House Committee on Corporations  
State House  
82 Smith St.  
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: H. 5591 — Vehicle Barriers — The Charlotte A. Vacca Act**

Dear Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee,

Rhode Island Commerce appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on House Bill 5591. This bill would require commercial property owners to install vehicle barriers at any new commercial real estate construction that is utilized, in whole or in part, by a retail establishment.

While we of course support measures to increase the safety of pedestrians and people working and shopping at a retail establishment, we would like to share some considerations regarding the bill's potential impact. As currently drafted, the bill introduces significant costs for commercial property owners which may, in turn, affect small businesses looking to expand into new retail locations. Additionally, there may be an opportunity to refine the language to account for commercial properties with minimal risk of vehicle collisions.

We are happy to meet with the bill sponsors to explore ways to achieve the bill's safety goals while balancing the needs of Rhode Island's small businesses.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth M. Tanner, Esq.  
Secretary of Commerce

CC. Honorable Members of the House Committee on Corporations  
The Honorable Robert D. Phillips  
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel