



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF COMMERCE

Submitted via email

January 20, 2026

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

RE: H. 7021 — Retail Establishments — Vehicle Safety Barriers

Dear Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee,

Rhode Island Commerce appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on House Bill 7021. This bill would require commercial property owners to install vehicle barriers at retail establishment locations as part of new construction or renovation.

While, of course, we support efforts to enhance the safety of pedestrians, employees, and customers at retail locations, we are also concerned about the financial burden this proposal would place on business owners. As currently drafted, the bill would impose substantial costs on commercial property owners, particularly small businesses, and may present challenges during both new construction and renovation projects.

We would welcome the opportunity to work with you and the bill sponsors to refine the legislation in a way that advances its safety objectives while minimizing unnecessary costs and unintended impacts on Rhode Island's business community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stefan Pryor".

Stefan Pryor
Secretary of Commerce

CC. Honorable Members of the House Committee on Corporations
Honorable Samuel A. Azzinaro
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House