



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

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May 21, 2025

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney
Chair, House Committee on Finance
State House
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: 2025 H-5145- AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES
– DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL CODE PROVISIONS**

Dear Chair Abney:

The Division of Motor Vehicles ("DMV") writes to request amendments to House Bill 5145, An Act Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles-Definitions and General Code Provisions.

The proposed bill would include trucks with a gross vehicle weight of eight thousand pounds (8,000 lbs.) or less in the definition of "automobile" in R.I. Gen. Laws § 31-1-3(d). Trucks which meet this classification as an "automobile" would be eligible to be issued "passenger" registration plates.

Currently, trucks are generally registered with "commercial" registration plates, unless they are eight thousand eight hundred pounds (8,800 lbs.) or less, in which case, they qualify for "combination" registration plates. "Combination" registration plates indicate that the vehicle is eligible to be driven for both commercial and pleasure purposes. Therefore, for purposes of consistency and clarity for both customers and employees, the DMV respectfully requests an amendment to the proposed bill which would designate trucks with a gross vehicle weight of eight thousand eight hundred pounds (8,800 lbs.) as being "automobiles", as opposed to the cutoff of eight thousand pounds (8,000 lbs.) in the proposed bill as currently drafted.

Additionally, the changes contained in the proposed bill will require the DMV to make significant modifications to its computer system's code and operating system, as well as its business processes. Providing the DMV with ample time to implement legislatively mandated changes will minimize risks to the system and allow for the successful completion of all developments necessary to effectuate the intent of the legislature. As such, the DMV respectfully requests an

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amendment to the bill's effective date from upon passage to six (6) months after passage.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Walter R. Craddock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Walter" being more prominent.

Walter R. Craddock, Esq.
Administrator

Cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance
The Honorable John G. Edwards
Nicole McCarty, Esquire, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker
Thomas A. Verdi, Director, Department of Revenue