



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND JUDICIARY

SUPREME COURT  
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

Licht Judicial Complex  
250 Benefit Street  
Providence, RI 02903

April 29, 2026

**Via Electronic Mail ([HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov](mailto:HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov))**

Chairman Marvin L. Abney  
House Committee on Finance  
Rhode Island State House  
Room 35  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

**Re: House Bill No. 7584: An Act Relating to Criminal Procedure – Criminal Injuries Compensation.**

Dear Chairman Abney:

I write on behalf of the Rhode Island Judiciary to respectfully express the Judiciary's concerns regarding House Bill No. 7584, scheduled to be heard this evening before the House Committee on Finance. If enacted, this legislation would impose a one dollar (\$1.00) assessment per civil or criminal traffic violation, to be transmitted to the crime victims' compensation fund. The Judiciary takes no position on this policy recommendation but, rather, wishes to highlight potential technological and logical issues and costs relating to its implementation.

Pursuant to Rule 35(e) of the Rules of Procedure for the Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal, a Universal Summons is to be utilized by all authorized law enforcement agencies to issue traffic violations. The Universal Summons is in the form of an eCitation, the content of which is determined by the Chief Magistrate of the Traffic Tribunal with the approval of the Supreme Court. See Rule 3(a) of the Rules of Procedure for the Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal. The current eCitation form has been in use since 2016.

Among the information contained in the eCitation is "a listing of the civil violations alleged by the issuing officer," including "the name given to the violation by statute," the "official or customary citation" for each charged violation, and "the full amount of the fine(s) required to be paid" when the charged violations are eligible for administrative payment. Rules 3(a), (c), and (d) of the Rules of Procedure for the Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal. This legislation, if enacted, would thus require amending the current eCitation form across all authorized law enforcement agencies in Rhode Island to provide for the proposed one dollar (\$1.00) assessment.

This amendment effort would not be a simple, centralized task because few law enforcement agencies share the same statewide records management system despite longstanding

efforts at unification. As such, the responsibility to amend the eCitation form would individually rest with the respective governing bodies of each affected municipality based upon their particular workforce and budgetary situations. Not only would this fragment the current process, it would also raise serious logistical hurdles to statewide implementation, impose a variety of personnel and programmatic costs, and result in inconsistent outcomes, but, more practically, would also create a serious roadblock to collecting and transmitting the proposed one dollar (\$1.00) assessment in the first instance, thereby frustrating the policy purpose of this legislation. These are significant potential deficiencies, as thousands of eCitations are issued annually.

Should this Committee choose to move forward with this legislation, the Judiciary asks that it support an amendment providing for the appropriation of sufficient funds to underwrite the substantial costs inherent in the legislation's implementation.

Thank you for the opportunity to express the Judiciary's concerns regarding this legislation.

Sincerely,



Chrisanne Wyrzykowski  
General Counsel