



RHODE ISLAND POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

February 25, 2025

The Honorable Robert E. Craven, Sr.
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: House Bill No. H5440 Relating to Criminal Procedure – Arrest.

Dear Chairman Craven:

I am writing on behalf of the Rhode Island Police Chiefs' Association (RIPCA) to voice our **support** for the House bill referenced above, which would permit non-sworn public safety officers and non-sworn security guards at private colleges and universities to detain individuals within the campus's jurisdiction when the officer or guard has reasonable grounds to believe that the person has committed a criminal offense.

Although most of these non-sworn public safety officers and non-sworn security guards are not certified by the Police Officers Commission on Standards and Training (POST) they do attend a modified training academy, overseen by the RI Department of Public Safety, which we understand will be modified to include instruction on portions of criminal law and proper use of restraint devices, all to be conducted by locally or nationally certified trainers.

Currently, the officers referenced above are asked to detain certain individuals that have committed a criminal offense within their jurisdiction under a vague portion of RI General Laws 12-7-16 and the suggested wording under the proposed legislation would clarify their authority to detain until local or state police can take custody of these individuals.

Thank you for allowing me to submit this written testimony on behalf of the RIPCA and as always, I am available for any follow-up questions you or the committee may have, and we are willing to continue discussions with the bill's sponsors.

Respectfully submitted,

Sidney Wordell
Executive Director, RIPCA

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