



RHODE ISLAND SUPREME COURT

Office of General Counsel
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March 4, 2025

Via Electronic Mail (HouseJudiciary@rilegislature.gov)

The Honorable Robert E. Craven, Jr.
House Committee on the Judiciary
Rhode Island State House
House Lounge
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Re: House Bill #5640: An Act Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles – Passing, Use of Lanes, and Rules of the Road.

Dear Chairman Craven:

I write on behalf of the Rhode Island Judiciary and the Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal (RITT) to express support for House Bill #5640, scheduled to be heard this evening before the House Judiciary Committee. This legislation seeks to amend RIGL § 31-15-9 by adding a section that would provide for a five-hundred-dollar (\$500.00) fine and six (6) month loss of license when a motorist travels in the wrong direction on an interstate highway or an entrance or exit ramp connected to an interstate highway.

This legislation is meant to address the significant risk of harm to motorists when a driver travels in the wrong direction on an interstate highway. Currently, the maximum penalty for this type of violation is an eighty-five (\$85.00) fine. Given the potential for death or serious bodily injury associated with this type of motor vehicle offense, an amendment to the statute is sought to enable the RITT to impose a fine of up to five hundred (\$500.00) dollars and to suspend the motorist's license for up to six (6) months.

I ask the House Judiciary Committee to consider passage of this legislation. Thank you for the opportunity to express the Judiciary's support for this bill.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Kelly
General Counsel