



## RHODE ISLAND POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

March 3, 2025

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

### **RE: House Bill No. H5657 Relating to Motor and other Vehicles – Motor Vehicle Offenses.**

Dear Chairman Craven:

I am writing on behalf of the Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association (RIPCA) to voice our strong opposition for the House bill referenced above to prohibit the division of motor vehicles from placing on a motorist's driving record, a traffic violation which fine has been paid within 30 days of issuance.

I would first like to remind the Honorable members of the committee that in 2010 this Legislature found it appropriate to create the Colin Foote Act under R.I.G.L. 31-27-24 which allowed habitual traffic offenders to receive stricter penalties if they received 4 moving violations within an 18 month period, the violator could receive heightened penalties for violating this law. As you may recall this was the result of a traffic crash which resulted in the death of 27 year old Colin Foote, whom was killed by a motorist that had numerous traffic violations on her record but had continued to have an active RI driver's license.

If this proposed legislation should pass a motorist capable of paying any traffic ticket within 30 days could continue to keep themselves from being held accountable under the Colin Foote Act. We further note that many municipalities have municipal courts and the implementation of this on a state level may not be universal on the local level. More now than ever, we have seen our traffic fatalities increase for many reasons but allowing habitual offenders to "buy" themselves a favorable driving records isn't going to help keep our roadways safer!

PRESIDENT  
Chief Thomas Oates III  
Woonsocket Police Dept.

VICE PRESIDENT  
Chief Michael Correia  
Barrington Police Dept.

SERGEANT AT ARMS  
Chief Ryan Duffy  
Newport Police Dept.

SECRETARY  
Colonel Michael Winquist  
Cranston Police Dept.

TREASURER  
Chief Matthew Moynihan  
South Kingstown Police Dept.

IMMEDIATE PAST  
PRESIDENT  
Colonel Bradford Connor  
Warwick Police Dept.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Chief Sidney Wordell, Ret.

BOARD MEMBER  
Dep. Director David DeCesare  
Security and Safety  
Rhode Island Supreme Court

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sidney Wordell", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sidney Wordell  
Executive Director  
Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association