



RHODE ISLAND SUPREME COURT

Office of General Counsel

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March 11, 2025

Via Electronic Mail (HouseJudiciary@rilegislature.gov)

Chairman Robert E. Craven, Sr.
House Committee on the Judiciary
Rhode Island State House
House Lounge
Providence, RI 02903

Re: House Bill #5897: An Act Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles - Suspension or Revocation of Licenses - Violations

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 #5897, scheduled to be heard this evening before the House Judiciary Committee. If enacted, this bill would amend R.I. Gen Law § 31-11-18.1 “Driving after denial, revocation, or suspension for certain offenses” to accurately reflect the criminal acts contemplated under this statute. For instance, section (3) defines manslaughter from the operation of a motor vehicle as a criminal act. However, the actual criminal act is “Operating a motor vehicle so as to endanger resulting in death”. (See R.I. Gen. Law § 31-27-1). Other recommended changes are similar in nature.

In addition to these modifications, this bill also adds language identifying R.I. Gen. Law § 31-27-24 (“Multiple Moving Violations”) and R.I. Gen. Law § 31-27-2.8 (Violation of the Conditions of a Hardship Order) to the list of offenses that may subject an individual to suspension of his or her license to drive, as well as possible adjudication as a misdemeanor or felony offense.

Thank you for the opportunity to express the Judiciary’s support for this bill.

Sincerely,


Kathleen Kelly
General Counsel
Rhode Island Supreme Court