



Director's Office

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Jonathan Womer, Director

March 11, 2025

The Honorable Representative Robert Craven, Sr.
Chairperson, House Committee on Judiciary
Rhode Island House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: House Bill No. 5911 – An Act Relating to Courts and Civil Procedure – Procedure Generally

Dear Chairperson Craven,

Thank you for providing the Department of Administration the opportunity to submit comments in response to House Bill No. 5911, which exempts the existing cap on damages for tort actions against Rhode Island, cities, towns, or fire districts in the case of willful misconduct or extreme recklessness.

The current statute adequately protects the State and municipalities when performing governmental functions. This legislation would potentially expose the State and municipalities to unbudgeted and potentially excessive damages. Therefore, we respectfully believe that passage of this bill is not in the State's best interest.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Womer
Director, Department of Administration

cc: The Honorable Representative Leonela Felix
The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
Nicole McCarty, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House
Roberta DiMezza, Committee Clerk
Lynn Urbani, Director of House Policy