



State of Rhode Island
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE
State Police Headquarters, 311 Danielson Pike, North Scituate, Rhode Island 02857
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT AND DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Colonel Darnell S. Weaver
Superintendent

February 11, 2026

The Honorable Carol Hagan McEntee, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary
Rhode Island House of Representatives
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: 2026-H 7353– An Act Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles – Comprehensive
Community Police Relationship Act of 2015**

Dear Chairperson McEntee:

On behalf of the Rhode Island State Police, please accept this letter expressing concerns regarding legislation currently before the House Committee on Judiciary entitled, “Comprehensive Community Police Relationship Act of 2015,” which would reinstate the expired CCPRA of 2015 with significant, material changes.

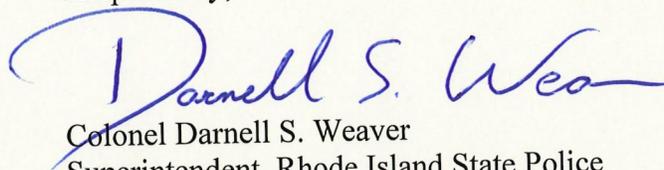
RISP supports transparent policing and the collection of relevant data for a fair and impartial evaluation. To this point, even though the reporting requirements set forth in CCPRA of 2015 expired in 2020, the RISP continues to collect relevant data and provides it to the Department of Transportation, Office of Highway Safety, when requested. With that said, the proposal includes a new subsection, § 31-21.2-7(e), which would create a new private cause of action against any police department for “...failing to collect or transmit the data required in this chapter, or for failing to comply with the other requirements of this chapter[.]”

Respectfully, the RISP opposes providing a private cause of action to “[a]n organization chartered for the purpose of combating discrimination, racism, or safeguarding civil liberties, or of promoting full, free, or equal employment opportunities, and/or a governmental or quasi-governmental entity[.]” *Id.* Frankly, this subsection puts police departments in a potential adversarial position with certain third-party organizations when the goal should be to ensure accurate information is provided in a timely manner so corrective action can be implemented, if appropriate. The enumerated third-party organizations should not have the legal standing to bring a private cause of action when the duty to comply with any reporting requirement is owed to the public as a whole and not to any individual group or person. Moreover, allowing a private cause of action for a broadly phrased “failing to comply with other requirements of this chapter” may create a slippery slope on the type of actions brought against law enforcement agencies by these third-party organizations and expose taxpayers to financial liability.

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I thank you for the opportunity to express the position of the Rhode Island State Police on legislation currently before the House Committee on Judiciary, H-7353 entitled, "An Act Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles – Comprehensive Community Police Relationship Act of 2015."

Respectfully,



Colonel Darnell S. Weaver
Superintendent, Rhode Island State Police
Director of Public Safety

cc: Honorable Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
The Honorable Edith H. Ajello
Nicole McCarty, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House
Major Ronald Longolucco
Adam Sholes, Esq. – DPS Chief Legal Counsel
Governor's Office