

# The Just Criminal Justice Group, LLC



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Owner/Manager

February 10, 2026

Carol Hagan McEntee  
Chair, House Judiciary Committee  
The Statehouse  
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: House Bill No. 7433BY Place, J. Lombardi  
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- SEARCH  
WARRANTS{LC4521/1} (Requires law enforcement to obtain consent before  
placing audio or video recorders on the private property of another.)**

Dear Chairperson McEntee and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

This act would require that law enforcement to obtain consent or a warrant before placing audio or video recorders on the private property of another. A violation of this act would make any evidence inadmissible in any court proceedings. The Just Criminal Justice Group, LLC (JCJG) is proud to lend its support to this thoughtful piece of legislation.

The legislation is needed for diverse reasons including:

1. The legislative approach to addressing this issue provides consistency across the board for law enforcement. Rather than the 'case by case' rules created by the courts that develop over time as the result of litigation, this legislation provides clear and 'up front' guidelines that are easy to recognize and adhere to. It therefore reduces the risk of losing a piece of evidence necessary for a successful prosecution that can result when applicable rules prescribing predicates for admissibility are unclear or still evolving.
2. The legislation is also consistent with a long history of the General Assembly providing law enforcement with bright line rules that balance the reliability and admissibility of evidence with privacy concerns. For example:

- a. *§ 9-19-25. Illegally seized evidence inadmissible.* Provides that “In the trial of any action in any court of this state, no evidence shall be admissible where the evidence shall have been procured by, through, or in consequence of any illegal search and seizure as prohibited in § 6 of article 1 of the constitution of the state of Rhode Island.”

Enacted by the  
General Assembly in 1938.

- b. *§ 12-5.1-1 to 16. Interception of Wire and Oral Communications Act.*

Enacted by the  
General Assembly in 1969.

- c. *§ 12-5.2-1 to 5. Pen Registers and Trap and Trace Devices.*

Enacted by the  
General Assembly in 1992.

- d. *§ 12-32-1 to 6. Cellphone tracking.*

Enacted by the  
General Assembly in 2016.

This provision strikes the proper balance between public safety and privacy concerns especially considering the most recent advances in technology that allow law enforcement virtually unfettered access to the information and materials where individuals enjoy a reasonable expectation of privacy.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michael A. DiLauro, Esq.  
The Just Criminal Justice Group, L.L.C.

CC: House Judiciary Committee Members