



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

**DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES
ADMINISTRATION OFFICE**

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February 26, 2026

The Honorable Carol Hagan McEntee
Chair, House Committee on Judiciary
State House
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: 2026 H-7747- AN ACT RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES –
REGULATION OF SALES**

Dear Chair McEntee:

The Division of Motor Vehicles (“DMV”) writes to express support for House Bill 7747, An Act Relating to Alcoholic Beverages – Regulation of Sales.

This omnibus bill addresses and amends certain statutes to clarify or update statutory language and to address issues raised during the course of administering these statutes. Sections 1 and 2 of the proposed bill would amend several aspects of Rhode Island’s credentialing statutes, including R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 3-8-6, 3-8-6.1 and 31-10-1, to prohibit any individual from holding more than one driver’s license or identification card issued by this state or any other, or any territory of the United States. Section 3 of the proposed bill would amend R.I. Gen. Laws § 31-46-4 to replace the term “re-constructed salvage” with the term “rebuilt salvage”. Both of these changes would bring Rhode Island more in line with national best practices and the procedures of other states.

Sections 1-2: Rhode Island law currently prohibits an individual from possessing more than one driver’s license, whether issued by this state or any other. Rhode Island law also prohibits the issuance of a Rhode Island identification card to any individual who holds an operator’s license issued by this state or any other. The statutory scheme may, however, permit an individual who possesses a Rhode Island operator’s license to obtain an identification card in another state or territory of the United States, which can create problems. Rhode Island participates in the State to State (S2S) verification system run by the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA). S2S enables a state to determine whether a person holds a driver’s license or identification card in another state, and also allows a state to send a request to another state to surrender or invalidate a driver’s license or ID card. S2S also includes a Driver History Record feature which supports the concept of one driver, one history

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record. The information is exchanged electronically in real time and provides better interstate communication for nationwide consistency and prevents problem individuals from slipping through the cracks. Allowing an individual to possess more than one credential has the potential to create havoc with driver history accuracy and completeness. This is because a person who may have only an active ID card has the potential to have a separate driving record created if they happen to be driving a vehicle and that card is used as identification during a traffic infraction. If that person then obtains a driver's license, multiple records would then exist for the same individual.

The proposed statutory amendments would close the potential loophole and ensure that DMV's issuance of operator's licenses and identification cards furthers the goal of "one driver, one history record."

Section 3: The proposed bill would also amend R.I. Gen. Laws § 31-46-4 so that Rhode Island rebuilt salvage titles would bear the brand "rebuilt salvage", rather than "re-constructed salvage". The reason for this is that the vast majority of states in the country utilize the term "rebuilt" for these vehicle titles, and that is the term also employed by the National Motor Vehicle Title Information System and AAMVA. The current terminology used by Rhode Island can cause confusion amongst other states when a vehicle is moved or sold across state lines, as the brand on the physical title does not match the brand in the national database. The change contemplated by the proposed bill would eliminate this confusion, along with the manual responses to phone calls and emails currently required to explain the discrepancy.

For the reasons above, the DMV supports House Bill 7747. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Walter R. Craddock, Esq.
Administrator

Cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
The Honorable Brandon T. Voas
Nicole McCarty, Esquire, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker
Thomas A. Verdi, Director, Department of Revenue