



**Supreme Court**  
Office of General Counsel

Licht Judicial Complex  
250 Benefit Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

March 4, 2026

*Via Electronic Mail (HouseJudiciary@rilegislature.gov)*

Chair Carol Hagan McEntee  
House Committee on Judiciary  
Rhode Island State House  
House Lounge  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

**RE: House Bill #7198: An Act Relating to Criminal Offenses – General Provisions**

Dear Chair Hagan McEntee:

I write on behalf of the Rhode Island Judiciary concerning House Bill #7198, scheduled to be heard this evening before the House Committee on Judiciary. If enacted, this bill would amend R.I. Gen Laws § 11-1-2 which defines felony, misdemeanor, and petty misdemeanor.

The Judiciary does not take a position on the substance of the proposed legislation, but rather expresses concerns on the practical implications of the proposed legislation. If passed, the proposed legislation would require a detailed review of each statute for 1,851 criminal codes and 781 juvenile codes and then the corresponding creation or updating of these codes in the Judiciary's case management system. This is due to the fact that, as written, the proposed legislation would amend certain felonies and make them a misdemeanor, and the length of imprisonment and the amount of the fine has changed which will affect the current codes. This is a detail-oriented, time-consuming task and a major undertaking that would take six (6) months to one (1) year if no other work commitments were involved. The Judiciary therefore asks that the proposed legislation be amended to reflect that it would take effect one year after passage rather than upon passage.

Thank you for the opportunity to express the Judiciary's concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chrisanne Wyrzykowski".

Chrisanne Wyrzykowski  
General Counsel