

Ariana Costa

From: Dave Lichtenstein <david_lichtenstein@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2026 8:18 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Supporting HB 7198

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Hi,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 7198 that would change the maximum prison sentence for a misdemeanor offense from one year to 364 days.

Under immigration law, certain minor convictions that are punishable by a year or more in prison may lead to detention, denial of necessary forms of immigration relief, and deportation for immigrants. By making a one-day change in the definition of "misdemeanor," this bill would protect hundreds of Rhode Islanders from these unnecessary, harsh immigration consequences.

It is important to note that, under this bill, judges will still have the discretion to impose prison sentences up to 364 days instead of 365. Passing this legislation would help protect vulnerable members of our immigrant community, including asylum seekers and victims of domestic violence.

Please consider passing this bill!
Dave Lichtenstein
Providence resident

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