

Roberta DiMezza

From: Sandra Darling <sandradarling47@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2026 5:06 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee; June Speakman; Sen. Lauria, Pamela J.
Subject: House Bill No. 8044

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Chairwoman McEntee and members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I write to you in support of HB #8044 which adds gift cards used in fraudulent transactions subject to the penalties for larceny.

Gift cards are still frequently used as a payment method for fraud criminals. Scams using gift cards include social security scams, romance scams, IRS scams, sweepstake scams and others. In October 2024 three men were arrested in southern RI for altering or tampering with over 2,000 gift cards. This results in the person who purchases the gift card discovering it has a zero balance! We have been successful in educating some of the population since the notification bill was passed a few years ago in RI but we need greater law enforcement to deter this criminal activity.

I urge your support and passage of House Bill #8044 to help safeguard the most vulnerable in our towns and communities.

Sandra Darling, AARP Advocacy Volunteer and Retired RN
7 Fort Hill Rd
Bristol, RI 02809
904-860-1566 cell/text