

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND



Department of Corrections

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The Honorable Carol Hagan McEntee
House Committee on Judiciary
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

March 24, 2026

Re: H8115 – Relating to State Affairs and Government – Corrections Department

Dear Chairperson McEntee:

This evening the House Judiciary Committee will consider House Bill #8115. This bill would require the Corrections Director to adopt body camera policies by January 1, 2027, establishing standards for activation, recording, access, retention, notice, and training. The bill also requires consultation with relevant stakeholders in the development of these policies. While the Rhode Island Department of Corrections (RIDOC) supports the thoughtful development of policy in collaboration with partners, this legislation would require the Department to establish policies on a fixed timeline in advance of having the necessary equipment, which presents significant implementation challenges.

RIDOC is actively exploring the implementation of body cameras for correctional officers and continues to engage the Rhode Island Brotherhood of Corrections (RIBCO) and other stakeholders on this very topic. The Department has also consulted with other states that have developed body camera policies, including Massachusetts.

These discussions highlight that policy development must be thoughtful and informed by the specific equipment and technological capabilities ultimately selected, including considerations related to storage, retention, training, and access. Mandating policy development on a fixed timeline before these determinations are made risks requiring the Department to revise or replace policies shortly after implementation, creating unnecessary inefficiency and potential confusion among staff and individuals in custody.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

Sincerely,

Wayne T. Salisbury Jr.
Director

cc: Honorable Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

The Honorable David Morales
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House