



RHODE ISLAND POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

March 24, 2026

The Honorable Carol Hagan McEntee
Chairwoman, House Committee on Judiciary
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

HouseJudiciary@rilegislature.gov

SUPPORT for H 8293

Dear Chairwoman McEntee and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association, I am writing in support of H 8293, which establishes a clear and practical framework for detention by campus public safety personnel at private colleges and universities.

This legislation recognizes the reality that campus public safety officers are often the first to respond to incidents occurring on college property. In many cases, these personnel encounter situations involving criminal activity where immediate action is necessary to maintain safety. H 8293 provides these individuals with limited authority to detain a person when there are reasonable grounds to believe a crime has been committed, while ensuring that local or state law enforcement is promptly notified and assumes responsibility.

Importantly, the bill includes appropriate safeguards. Detention is limited to a short, clearly defined period, and campus personnel are required to request assistance from the appropriate law enforcement agency without delay. The legislation also requires that individuals exercising this authority be properly trained and operate under recognized use-of-force policies. These provisions strike a thoughtful balance between empowering campus safety personnel to act when necessary and maintaining appropriate oversight and accountability.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

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Barrington Police Dept.

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Newport Police Dept.

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