



## RHODE ISLAND POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

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Rhode Island Supreme Court

April 8, 2026

The Honorable Carol Hagan McEntee  
Chairwoman, House Judiciary Committee  
Rhode Island House of Representatives  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903  
[HouseJudiciary@rilegislature.gov](mailto:HouseJudiciary@rilegislature.gov)

### **Support H. 8081 – consider expunged records for concealed carry permits**

Dear Chairwoman McEntee and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

On behalf of the Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association, I write to express our support for H. 8081.

This legislation provides an important and narrowly tailored update to Rhode Island's expungement laws by allowing law enforcement agencies to consider expunged records when evaluating applications for concealed carry permits. This change ensures that licensing authorities have access to relevant background information necessary to make informed public safety decisions.

H. 8081 appropriately balances the intent of expungement—providing individuals with a second chance—with the responsibility of law enforcement to assess risk when issuing permits to carry firearms. Access to this limited information, strictly for permitting purposes, strengthens the integrity of the review process while maintaining existing protections against broader disclosure.

From a law enforcement perspective, this clarity is critical. Permitting decisions require a comprehensive understanding of an applicant's history, particularly when public safety is at stake. This legislation helps ensure that those decisions are made with the fullest and most appropriate information available.

We respectfully urge the Committee to support H. 8081. Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to public safety in Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

Chief Sidney Wordell (ret.)  
Executive Director  
Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association