

# OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

160 Pine Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02903

TELEPHONE: (401) 222-3492

FAX: (401) 222-3287

EMAIL TO: [info@ripd.org](mailto:info@ripd.org)

WEBSITE: [www.ripd.org](http://www.ripd.org)

April 28, 2026

## **TESTIMONY OF THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER REGARDING:**

**House Bill No. 8098**

**ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -  
- SUPER SPEEDER ACCOUNTABILITY ACT**

Chairwoman Hagan McEntee and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

The Office of the Public Defender **opposes** H8098, which requires judges and magistrates of the District Court and Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal to order the installation of an Intelligent Speeding Assessment (ISA) device, which monitors the speed of the car, as a condition of reinstatement when a person's license has been suspended for excessive speeding, racing, reckless driving where speed was a factor, or for certain multiple speeding offenses.

Our concern with this legislation is two-fold. First, the cost burden of the leasing, installation, monitoring, and maintaining the device is set squarely on the driver. While that might make sense for those in a certain income bracket, many people, especially our clients, would find this cost prohibitive, especially when added to all of the other costs and fees that come along with license reinstatement. Secondly, the installation of the ISA would be mandatory in all of the aforementioned situations. After decades in the courtroom, we can attest that it is preferable to allow the judges and magistrates some discretion to take into account circumstances that are difficult to predict during the legislative process.

Indeed, if the judges and magistrates were given some discretion in both of these areas—*i.e.*, when the ISA must be ordered and when the costs are imposed on the driver—much of our opposition would be abated. We would encourage the Committee to integrate these changes into the bill, which we must oppose in its current form.

Sincerely,

/s/ Angela M. Yingling

Angela M. Yingling

Legislative Liaison

Office of the Public Defender

401-222-1505

[ayingling@ripd.org](mailto:ayingling@ripd.org)