



State of Rhode Island
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE
State Police Headquarters, 311 Danielson Pike, North Scituate, Rhode Island 02857
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT AND DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Colonel Darnell S. Weaver
Superintendent

April 30, 2026

The Honorable Carol Hagan McEntee, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary
Rhode Island House of Representatives
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: 2026-H 7743– An Act Relating to Health and Safety – The Mandatory Carrying of Epinephrine Autoinjectors by Police Officers Act

Dear Chairperson McEntee:

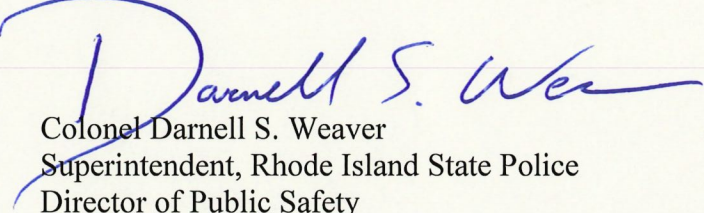
On behalf of the Rhode Island Department of Public Safety (“DPS”), please accept this letter expressing concerns regarding legislation currently before the House Committee on Judiciary entitled, “An Act Relating to Health and Safety – The Mandatory Carrying of Epinephrine Autoinjectors by Police Officers Act,” which would mandate that all peace officers be equipped with epinephrine autoinjectors and be required to attend biannual mandatory training on use of epinephrine autoinjectors.

Pertinent to DPS, the proposal would apply to all Rhode Island State Police troopers, Capitol Police officers and deputy sheriffs within the Division of Sheriffs. Although DPS understands and appreciates the risk that food and environmental allergies present to members of the public, the cost of this unfunded mandate will be significant. By way of example, it is my understanding that a two-pack of epinephrine costs between \$550-700. This cost structure would correlate to a minimum of \$175,000 for DPS to equip its peace officers but the actual amount may be double because the proposal would require the purchase of an epinephrine autoinjector for every peace officer and each cruiser. This would not be a one-time expense either. Epinephrine, as a medication, expires every 12 to 18 months so this mandate would create a recurring expense for DPS, and all law enforcement agencies in Rhode Island. This projected cost does not include the additional training requirements, which will undoubtedly lead to increased overtime costs.

Understandably, cost should not be a factor if it results in lives saved. With that said, DPS is unaware of any situation in which any DPS agency responded to an incident and there was a need for epinephrine to be administered before paramedics arrived. Frankly, individuals with anaphylactic resulting allergies tend to carry these medications on them. In the event it is a reaction to an unknown allergy (i.e. bee sting), paramedics would be dispatched to that call and usually arrive within minutes of the call.

I thank you for the opportunity to express the position of the Department of Public Safety on legislation currently before the House Committee on Judiciary, H -7743 entitled, "An Act Relating to Health and Safety – The Mandatory Carrying of Epinephrine Autoinjectors by Police Officers Act."

Respectfully,



Colonel Darnell S. Weaver
Superintendent, Rhode Island State Police
Director of Public Safety

cc: Honorable Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
Nicole McCarty, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House
Major Ronald Longolucco
Adam Sholes, Esq. – DPS Chief Legal Counsel
Governor's Office