



## JOHNSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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*Chief of Police, Mark A. Vieira*

The Honorable Carol Hagan McEntee  
House Judiciary Committee  
Rhode Island House of Representatives  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903

[HouseJudiciary@rilegislature.gov](mailto:HouseJudiciary@rilegislature.gov)

SUPPORT H. 7753 – An Act Relating to Criminal Offenses – Disarming a Peace Officer

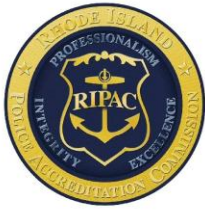
Dear Chairwoman McEntee and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to you today in support of H. 7753.

As Chief of Police in Johnston, I have seen law enforcement encounters that change in an instant because a person attempts to take a police officer's weapon or equipment. When an individual attempts to remove or interfere with an officer's firearm, less-lethal tools, or communication equipment, the risk escalates immediately—not only for the officer, but for everyone involved.

This legislation appropriately recognizes that the danger exists the moment such an attempt is made. It also reflects the importance of the full range of equipment officers rely on to do their jobs safely. Communication devices such as radios are critical to coordination and officer safety. Losing that connection can delay assistance and increase the likelihood of harm.

H. 7753 establishes a necessary standard by making this conduct a felony offense. It provides important clarity for law enforcement, prosecutors, and the courts, while reinforcing that actions which create an immediate threat to public safety will be treated with the seriousness they deserve.



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Most importantly, this bill supports safer outcomes. When officers maintain control of their equipment and communication, they are in a better position to de-escalate situations and resolve incidents without unnecessary harm.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to support H. 7753.

Thank you for your consideration and your continued support of public safety.

Respectfully submitted,

*Chief Mark A. Vieira*

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Chief of Police  
Johnston Police Department