



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND JUDICIARY

SUPREME COURT  
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

Licht Judicial Complex  
250 Benefit Street  
Providence, RI 02903

May 14, 2026

**Via Electronic Mail (HouseJudiciary@rilegislature.gov)**

Chairwoman Carol Hagan McEntee  
House Committee on Judiciary  
Rhode Island State House  
House Lounge  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

**RE: House Bill No. 8523: An Act Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles – Special Stops Required**

Dear Chairwoman Carol Hagan McEntee:

I write on behalf of the Rhode Island Judiciary to express our concerns regarding House Bill No. 8523, scheduled to be heard this evening before the House Committee on Judiciary. If enacted, this bill would upend the Universal Summons that has been adopted and utilized by the Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal (“RITT”), thirty-nine (39) cities and towns, and the Rhode Island State Police.

The RITT is statutorily charged with ensuring that all municipal courts that hear and decide traffic matters do so in accordance with the RITT’s procedures. *See* R.I. Gen. Laws § 8-18-11. The Universal Summons, established in statute, is key in this process as it aids in the ability of RITT to track, monitor, financially account for and accurately record violations on driving records. *See* R.I. Gen. Laws § 8-18-2. The proposed legislation, which would permit a driver to pay a notice of violation for failure to stop for a school bus without appearing in court, appears to set up a dual tracking system, which contravenes the Universal Summons’ statute. Given that RITT, thirty-nine (39) cities and towns, and the Rhode Island State Police utilize the Universal Summons, enacting legislation to the contrary would create a host of logistical and financial concerns.

Thank you for the opportunity to express the Judiciary’s concerns about this bill.

Sincerely,

*Chrisanne Wyrzykowski*  
Chrisanne Wyrzykowski  
General Counsel