



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

February 5, 2026

The Honorable Arthur J. Corvese, Chair
House Committee on Labor
Rhode Island House of Representatives
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: 2026-H 7039– An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government – Peace Officer
Maximum Workday and Overtime Compensation**

Dear Chairman Corvese:

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 Labor entitled, “Peace Officer Maximum Workday and Overtime Compensation,” which, if applicable to peace officers within the Department of Public Safety, would significantly impact the operations of all law enforcement agencies within DPS; specifically, the Rhode Island State Police, the Rhode Island Division of Sheriffs and the Rhode Island Capitol Police Department.

Although DPS presumes the proposal is limited to correctional officers within the Rhode Island Department of Corrections, it is not entirely clear. H-7039 defines ‘employee’ as any “peace officer.” Indeed, the proposal is entitled “Peace Officer Maximum Workday and Overtime Compensation.” DPS employs various classifications of peace officers to include state police troopers, deputy sheriffs and capitol police officers. Although the proposal defines ‘employer’ as the Rhode Island Department of Corrections, there are multiple locations throughout the proposal that refers to the employer as the “state.” This reference to the “state” being the employer coupled with the definition of “employee” being any peace officer has made it difficult to ascertain the intent behind the proposal.

If the intent is to have H-7039 apply to all peace officers employed by the State of Rhode Island, DPS has significant concerns. Specifically, each DPS agency utilizes different work schedules and hours. By way of example, Rhode Island State Police troopers assigned to the uniform bureau typically work a “3 and 3 schedule,” meaning three days on followed by three days off. The shift comprises of either a 13-hour day shift or 11 hour night shift. Overtime is based on hours worked within a “Garcia time period” that is set forth within the collective bargaining agreement. H-7039 would cause a seismic shift to the operations of the Rhode Island State Police.

The Honorable Arthur J. Corvese, Chair
February 5, 2026
Page 2

I thank you for the opportunity to express the position of the Department of Public Safety on legislation currently before the House Committee on Labor, H -7039 entitled, "An Act Relating to State Government and Affairs – Peace Officer Maximum Workday and Overtime Compensation."

Respectfully,



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

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