



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

**DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES
ADMINISTRATION OFFICE**

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February 6, 2025

The Honorable Karen Alzate
Chair, House Committee on Special Legislation
State House
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: 2025 H-5141- AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES
- REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES**

Dear Chair Alzate:

The Division of Motor Vehicles ("DMV") respectfully requests an amendment to House Bill 5141, An Act Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles-Registration of Vehicles, to provide that it shall become effective six (6) months after passage. The DMV further requests clarification of one of the fees contained in the bill.

The proposed bill authorizes a special license plate commemorating Governor Roger Williams as the first governor of what was to become the State of Rhode Island. Registrants who opt for this special plate would be required to pay a transfer charge of five dollars (\$5.00) and a service charge of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) in addition to the regular prescribed motor vehicle registration fee.

Most, if not all, legislative changes and new laws, including the authorization of new license plate types, require the DMV to make significant modifications to its computer system's code and operating system. Providing the DMV with ample time to implement legislatively mandated changes will minimize risks to the system and allow for the successful completion of all development necessary to effectuate the intent of the legislature. As such, the DMV respectfully requests an amendment to the bill's effective date from upon passage to six (6) months after passage.

Additionally, it is unclear whether the twenty-five dollar (\$25.00) service charge is a one-time fee or if it is to be recurring. The DMV respectfully requests clarification as to whether this fee would be imposed solely when the registrant first obtains the plate, or whether it is the intent of the proposed bill that the fee be charged at every registration renewal.

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The DMV looks forward to working with the sponsor going forward to draft revisions to the proposed bill that are mutually agreeable.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Walter R. Craddock, Esq.
Administrator

Cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Special Legislation
The Honorable David A. Bennett
Nicole McCarty, Esquire, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the
House
Thomas A. Verdi, Director, Department of Revenue