



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

**DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES  
ADMINISTRATION OFFICE**

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February 27, 2025

The Honorable Evan P. Shanley  
Chair, House Committee on State Government and Elections  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: 2025 H-5513- AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES –  
OPERATORS' AND CHAUFFEURS' LICENSES**

Dear Chair Shanley:

The Division of Motor Vehicles ("DMV") writes to express support for House Bill 5513, An Act Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles – Operators' and Chauffeurs' Licenses.

The proposed bill would provide a minimum time frame of thirty (30) days for an applicant who is over the age of eighteen (18) to hold a learner's permit before being eligible to take a road test. The proposed bill would also set an expiration date for the permit of one year from the date of issuance, with the possibility of renewal for one additional year.

The thirty-day period is the time which the holder of the learner's permit is provided so that the individual may practice driving a vehicle in preparation for the road test in order to obtain a full operator's license. That thirty-day time period is already utilized by the DMV as a matter of practice, and the proposed bill would codify that practice into statute.

Additionally, the one-year expiration date with the possibility of a one-year renewal are reasonable time periods for a permit holder to complete any necessary driving instruction and practice, while providing ample time to successfully pass a road test. Without these time limitations defined in statute, an individual could potentially hold a learner's permit in perpetuity, without ever having to pass the road test. In the event that an individual is unable to pass a road test within the two years, that individual would be required to re-establish knowledge of the rules of the road by successfully passing another written permit exam.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Walter R. Craddock, Esq.  
Administrator

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Cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on State Government and  
Elections  
The Honorable Robert D. Phillips  
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House  
Thomas A. Verdi, Director, Department of Revenue