



Rhode Island Marine Trades Association
513 Broadway
Suite 320
Newport, RI 02840
(401) 396-9619
www.rimta.org

March 10, 2025

Representative Evan Shanley
Chair, House Committee on State Government and Elections
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02902

Subject: Letter of Support for House Bill 5730

Dear Chair Shanley and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Rhode Island Marine Trades Association (RIMTA), I express our support for H5730, which allows boats and marine assets to utilize the overweight oversize annual blanket permit for transportation.

This legislation is crucial for improving the permitting process for boats and marine assets operating under size, weight, and load limit restrictions issued by RIDOT. The nature of the marine industry, where factors like inclement weather and tide cycles can significantly impact schedules, makes the current daily single-trip permit system impractical. It is cumbersome, time-consuming, costly and lacks the flexibility needed for emergency situations. Allowing annual blanket permits would streamline operations, reduce administrative burdens, and improve efficiency for businesses in this sector.

Additionally, we are working with companies in the mobile crane sector who face similar challenges. We intend to submit a future draft with additional amendments to address their concerns including these updates: Allow self-propelled cranes, as defined in RIGL § 31-1-9, to obtain overweight oversize annual blanket permits by adjusting the minimum overall length requirement to accommodate modern models. Restore travel time between 7:00 - 9:00 AM and 3:00 - 7:00 PM, Monday through Friday, as current curfews are overly restrictive and hinder timely worksite access. Modify holiday travel restrictions to reduce the number of impacted days, minimizing unnecessary disruptions to business operations.

Rhode Island has long been known for its prohibitive business environment and the current permitting process for hauling boats and providing crane services only adds to these challenges. Small businesses in the marine and construction industries, which are both vital to the state's economy, are burdened by outdated and impractical regulations that make operations inefficient and costly. By allowing these businesses to obtain annual blanket permits instead of navigating the cumbersome daily single-trip permit system, H5730 would create a more business-friendly climate, supporting growth, job creation and economic stability in two of Rhode Island's key industries. Thank you for your time and consideration of this bill.

Sincerely,

Brian Dursi
Executive Director
RI Marine Trades Association
401-396-9619