



**RHODE ISLAND LEAGUE
OF CITIES AND TOWNS**

*Distinctive Communities
Powerful Alliance*

April 2, 2025

The Honorable Evan P. Shanley, Chair
House State Government and Elections
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: BILL NUMBER H-5882 – AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- OPERATORS' AND
CHAUFFEURS' LICENSES**

Chair Shanley and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, I write to express our strong support for House Bill 5882, which seeks to streamline the training requirements for school bus driver applicants who already possess a valid commercial driver's license (CDL) and authorizes the issuance of temporary school bus driver licenses to qualifying individuals residing in bordering states.

Municipalities across Rhode Island continue to face significant workforce shortages, particularly in the area of school transportation. School bus drivers play a critical role in ensuring that students have reliable and safe access to education, and any delays or disruptions in service can have broad impacts on families and communities. Unfortunately, the current shortage of drivers has placed added strain on municipalities, school districts, and transportation providers, leading to longer wait times, route reductions, and increased costs.

By reducing redundancies in the training process for CDL holders, House Bill 5882 helps to remove unnecessary barriers to entry while maintaining the high safety standards required for school bus operations. Additionally, allowing qualified applicants from bordering states to obtain a temporary school bus driver license broadens the talent pool, further addressing the recruitment challenges facing our cities and towns.

The League acknowledges the discussion of this bill within the Special Joint Legislative Commission to Study Student Transportation Needs and System Costs and want to thank the sponsor for submitting this important measure. Ensuring that our municipalities have access to a reliable, well-trained workforce is essential to maintaining essential services, and we believe House Bill 5882 is a step in the right direction. This legislation aligns with our continued advocacy for practical workforce solutions that support Rhode Island's local governments and communities.

We urge the committee's favorable consideration of this legislation and look forward to continued collaboration to support initiatives that benefit Rhode Island's cities and towns.

Sincerely,

Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House State Government and Elections Committee