

Steven Sepe

From: Kristi Maresco <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2025 3:53 PM
To: House State Government and Elections Committee
Subject: Support for S 0349, H 5960, S 0716, H 6093, S 0626, H5686

House1 State Government and Elections Committee,

Hello,

I am writing to express my strong support for the following bills: S 0349, H 5960, S 0716, H 6093, and S 0626. I love Rhode Island's beaches and we need to make sure we don't lose access over time because of erosion, road abandonment, or parking changes that limit people's access.

The first bill (2025-S 0349, 2025-H 5960) would allow towns to preserve access to roads before abandoning them and to keep up access and maintenance for walking, biking or other recreational purposes only. This option could help towns retain access to the shore at a time when sea level rise and frequent flooding is prompting them to consider abandoning low-lying coastal roads. Under current Rhode Island law the only option for a municipality that does not wish to maintain a road is to abandon it totally to the abutting private property owners.

The second bill (2025-S 0716, 2025-H 6093) would set requirements that municipalities, private agencies and other organizations would have to follow when attempting to alter parking near designated CRMC rights of way. These requirements would include submitting a comprehensive parking plan, analyzing the impact on accessibility under the Americans with Disabilities Act and conducting a public comment period of at least 30 days. It would also allow the CRMC and DEM to enforce these requirements and impose fines and penalties if they are violated.

The third bill (2025-H 5686, 2025-S 0626) would require municipalities to maintain and update a list of CRMC designated rights of way to tidal areas. The House Municipal Government and Housing Committee recommended the House version of the bill for passage on March 20.

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