



COMMUNITY COLLEGE
OF RHODE ISLAND
Office of the President

April 24, 2025

The Honorable Evan P. Shanley
Chairman, House Committee on State Government & Elections
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: H5731, An Act Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles – Operators' and Chauffeurs' Licenses

Dear Chairman Shanley and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI), thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on H5731, which proposes a two-year pilot of instructor-led virtual instruction for driver education.

CCRI supports the goal of modernizing driver education in Rhode Island and ensuring that all students have access to a high-quality learning experience that prepares them for safe and responsible driving. However, we have significant concerns with the bill as drafted, particularly with regard to program consistency, instructional quality, and data collection and reporting. .

We are grateful to Representative Fogarty, the bill's sponsor, for taking the time to meet with us to hear about these concerns and for working collaboratively to discuss possible revisions, which include:

- Designating CCRI as the sole provider of the virtual pilot, ensuring consistent delivery and the ability to gather and analyze data effectively;
- Enabling CCRI to develop a best-in-class instructor-led virtual driver education program aligned with established best practices;
- Providing a six-month period for CCRI to design and launch the virtual program with appropriate planning and quality control;
- Supporting rigorous evaluation by limiting the pilot to one provider and generating reliable, centralized data to inform future decision-making;
- Recognizing CCRI plays a critical role in preparing Rhode Island teens for licensure and lifelong safe driving.

With these revisions, the college believes the legislation strikes an appropriate balance between innovation, accessibility, and accountability. We respectfully urge the committee to consider the proposed revisions and thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rosemary A. Costigan'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rosemary A. Costigan, Ph.D., RN
Interim President

cc. The Honorable Kathleen A. Fogarty