

## STATE of RHODE ISLAND

Executive Department
GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

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## Legislative Impact Statement

To: Chairperson Representative Shanley From: Elisabeth Hubbard, Executive Secretary

Re: 25 House 6165 AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -

STATE POLICE

## Thursday, April 24, 2025

The Governor's Commission on Disabilities' Legislation Committee has developed a Legislative Impact Statement on the bill listed below. The Commission would be pleased to present testimony to the committee. Please contact me (462-0110) for additional information.

## The Commission finds this bill beneficial.

At the Governor's Commission on Disabilities, we have a great interest in preserving the independence of people with disabilities and in preventing overly paternalistic policies. We also recognize that people with the most severe disabilities may be vulnerable and need extra support from the community.

We support this bill as it strikes an appropriate balance between independence and support. The terms for whom the alert would be used and when the alert would be used are reasonably restricted under the language of the bill, but it will fulfill the intent of protecting extremely vulnerable people with disabilities who may need more support to live safely in our community.

People with disabilities are twice as likely to be victims of violent crime. People with severe impairments may not have the ability to advocate for themselves or seek assistance. In these cases, as a society we should use a higher level of resources and coordination to prevent harm. An initiative like the purple alert promotes independence, as it allows people with the most severe disabilities to be safer in the general community instead of restricted to institutions or group homes because we are worried about their safety.