



RIEMA

RHODE ISLAND
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Daniel J. McKee, **Governor**
Marc R. Pappas, **Director**

April 24, 2025

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

Re: 2025 - H - 6165 An Act Relating to Military Affairs and Defense – State Police
2025 - H - 6188 An Act Relating to Military Affairs and Defense – State Police

Dear Chair Shanley:

2025 - H - 6165 An Act Relating to Military Affairs and Defense – State Police, and 2025 - H - 6188 An Act Relating to Military Affairs and Defense – State Police, establish an emergency alert system for missing persons as part of the integrated public alert and warning system (IPAWS) operated by the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA).

IPAWS is a national system for local alerting that provides authenticated emergency and life-saving information to the public through mobile phones using wireless emergency alerts, to radio and television via the emergency alert system, and on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Weather Radio. RIEMA's participation in the PURPLE alert program proposed by these bills is welcomed by RIEMA as another means of enhancing public safety and protecting lives. For these reasons, RIEMA strongly supports these bills.

Respectfully,

Marc R. Pappas

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Director

cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on State Government and Elections
The Honorable Christopher G. Paplauskas
The Honorable Tina L. Spears
Nicole McCarty, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House