



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES
ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
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January 27, 2026

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

RE: 2026 H-7135- AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY – OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Dear Chair Shanley:

The Division of Motor Vehicles (“DMV”) writes to express concerns with House Bill 7135, An Act Relating to Health and Safety – Office of State Fire Marshal.

The proposed bill would create a program through which fire departments and fire districts are notified of locations of registrants of electric and hybrid motor vehicles by the DMV.

The concern of the DMV is that the proposed bill would require the DMV to transmit “vehicle registration information” to fire departments and fire districts as part of the program. Vehicle registration information typically includes registrant’s name and address. The release of DMV data is regulated by the federal Driver’s Privacy Protection Act - 18 U.S.C. § 2721 et seq. - and its Rhode Island counterpart, R.I.G.L. § 27-49-3.1. Although the sharing of DMV data with another government agency is considered a discretionary permissible use under these laws, the intent of the statutory scheme is to minimize the release of personally identifiable information (PII). To promote the protection of PII, the data required to be released by DMV under the proposed bill should be limited to the vehicle description and the garaged address of the hybrid or electric vehicles, which would still effectuate the stated goal of the proposed bill.

A secondary issue which should be pointed out is that, at present there is no method of electronically transferring the data from DMV to the fire departments and fire districts. Therefore, whether the data is emailed or sent by traditional mail, that information would have to be manually inputted by those fire departments and fire districts.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Walter R. Craddock, Esq.
Administrator

Cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on State Government and Elections
The Honorable Earl A. Read, III
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House
Thomas A. Verdi, Director, Department of Revenue