



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES
ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
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February 10, 2026

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

**RE: 2026 H-7574- AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES
– REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES**

Dear Chair Shanley:

The Division of Motor Vehicles ("DMV") writes to express concerns with, and to respectfully request an amendment to House Bill 7574, An Act Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles – Registration of Vehicles.

The proposed bill would exempt car rental companies from registration penalties resulting from out-of-state toll violations incurred by operators using their rental vehicles.

The main concern of the DMV is that registration blocks for toll evaders are placed into effect by the Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority ("RITBA"), not the DMV. While RITBA is able to access the DMV's computer system in order to effectuate those blocks, that system is not currently able to specifically identify vehicles as rental vehicles. As such, implementing the proposed bill would necessitate a cumbersome, manual process involving both agencies. Any programming of the DMV computer system in an effort to automate that process would be exceptionally difficult.

A secondary concern is that the proposed bill defines "rental company" under the definition found in R.I. Gen. Laws § 31-34.1-1, which is the section of the General Laws pertaining to the rental vehicle surcharge that is administered by the Division of Taxation. The identity of each "rental company" as defined in that section, however, is confidential taxpayer information which could not be shared by the Division of Taxation with the DMV and RITBA under current law.

Finally, as currently drafted, the proposed bill would take effect upon passage. As noted above, the proposed bill would require the DMV to make significant modifications to its computer system's code and operating system. Providing the DMV with ample time to implement legislatively mandated changes will minimize

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risks to the system and allow for the successful completion of all development necessary to effectuate the intent of the legislature. As such, the DMV respectfully requests an amendment to the bill's effective date from upon passage to one (1) year after passage.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Walter R. Craddock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "W" and "C".

Walter R. Craddock, Esq.
Administrator

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