



## Director's Office

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Jonathan Womer, Director

February 10, 2026

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

**RE: House Bill No. 7578 – An Act Relating To State Affairs And Government -- Motor Vehicles Owned By A Governmental Body**

Dear Chairperson Shanley,

Thank you for providing the Division of Capital Asset Management & Maintenance ("Division") within the Department of Administration ("Department") the opportunity to submit our comments in response to House Bill No. 7578, which requires the Division to include information on the number of hybrid, combustion engine, plug-in hybrid, and to Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs) in the light duty fleet in our annual fleet report.

In support of the Governor's Lead by Example Executive Order 23-06, State Fleet Operations (SFO) already proactively includes information regarding the composition of the light duty vehicle fleet as it relates to ZEVs into its annual report. We also comply with the requirements of the federal Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-58—Aug. 8, 2005), including reporting light duty vehicle purchases and compliance towards clean emission vehicle requirements. As such, we are happy to continue furnishing this requested information.

However, the Division respectfully requests that the legislative definition of ZEV be amended to be inclusive of both Plug-in Hybrid Vehicles (PHEVs) and Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs). Under the Advanced Clean Cars II regulations, which have been promulgated in Rhode Island and across the country, both PHEVs and BEVs, as well as fuel-cell electric vehicles (FCEVs), are all considered compliant with the ZEV requirements as they all emit zero tailpipe emissions while operating on battery power.

The Division appreciates the opportunity to share its comments with the Committee. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact my office at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Marco Schiappa".

Marco Schiappa  
Acting Director, Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance &  
Chairman, State Properties Committee

cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on State Government and Elections  
The Honorable Michelle E. McGaw  
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House  
Steven Sepe, Committee Clerk