



State of Rhode Island
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE
State Police Headquarters, 311 Danielson Pike, North Scituate, Rhode Island 02857
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT AND DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Colonel Darnell S. Weaver
Superintendent

March 25, 2026

The Honorable Walter S. Felag, Jr., Chair
Senate Committee on Special Legislation and Veterans' Affairs
Rhode Island Senate
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: 2026-S 3097– An Act Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles – Equipment and Accessories Generally

Dear Chairman Felag:

I am writing this letter in support of S-3097- An Act Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles – Equipment and Accessories Generally. This proposal would improve the safety of Rhode Island roads by improving the existing framework to ensure that commercial vehicles are operating lawfully, safely, and responsibly.

Within the Rhode Island State Police is the Commercial Enforcement Unit (CEU). CEU is tasked with inspecting commercial vehicles traveling on our roadways. This is an important job that ensures the safety of the motoring public. S-3097 would close a loophole that currently exists in Rhode Island law. Federal regulations require commercial vehicles with a gross combination weight of 10,001 lbs. or more that engage in interstate commerce to obtain a US DOT number. The majority of states, including our neighboring states of Massachusetts and Connecticut, have extended this requirement to commercial vehicles that engage in intrastate travel. A US DOT number serves as a unique identifier when collecting and monitoring a company's safety information acquired during audits, compliance reviews crash investigations and inspections. S-3097 would simply place Rhode Island in line with the majority of states. Currently, only Rhode Island commercial vehicles with a gross combination weight of 10,001 lbs. or more that engage in interstate commerce are required to obtain US DOT numbers.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my support for of S-3097- An Act Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles – Equipment and Accessories Generally.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Darnell S. Weaver".
Colonel Darnell S. Weaver

cc: Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Special Legislation and Veterans' Affairs
Major Ronald Longolucco
Adam Sholes, Esq. – DPS Chief Legal Counsel
Governor's Office