

Senate Bill #2390

From Sandra Darling <sandradarling47@gmail.com>

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To Senate Judiciary Committee <SenateJudiciary@rilegislature.onmicrosoft.com>; Sen. Lauria, Pamela J. <sen-lauria@rilegislature.gov>; June Speakman <june.speakman@gmail.com>

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Chairman LaMountain and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I write to you in support of SB #2390 which adds gift cards used in fraudulent transactions subject to the penalties for larceny.

Gift cards are still frequently used as a payment method for fraud criminals. Scams using gift cards include social security scams, romance scams, IRS scams, sweepstake scams and others. In October 2024 three men were arrested in southern RI for altering or tampering with over 2,000 gift cards. This results in the person who purchases the gift card discovering it has a zero balance! We have been successful in educating some of the population since the notification bill was passed a few years ago in RI but we need greater law enforcement to deter this criminal activity.

I urge your support and passage of Senate Bill #2390 to help safeguard the most vulnerable in our towns and communities.

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