



**RHODE ISLAND**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**  
**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR**  
235 Promenade Street, Room 425  
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

March 31, 2026

The Honorable Matthew L. LaMountain  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

**RE: S 2604 An Act Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles – Definitions and General Code Provisions**

Dear Chairman LaMountain,

Thank you for providing the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) the opportunity to offer comments on S 2604, which proposes to regulate the use of certain types of powered wheeled devices such as motorized bicycles, motor scooters, electric bicycles, and electric personal assistive mobility devices. This letter is not intended as a position in support of or opposition to the bill, but offers technical comments intended to provide clarity in the bill.

S 2604 proposes the creation of a new chapter of the general laws which consolidates the regulation of various types of powered wheeled devices. Among the provisions included in the new chapter is authority for local governments to regulate the usage of powered wheeled devices on sidewalks, bike paths, and other public ways. DEM respectfully recommends that state departments also be given this same authority. At present, R.I. Gen. Laws § 31-19.7-2 provides DEM with the authority to regulate the usage of electric bicycles at state properties. However, clear authority to regulate the other types of powered wheeled devices would aid in our ability to establish rules that protect public safety at the properties we manage.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer comments on this legislation and would be pleased to work with you to address the issues raised in this letter. Please feel free to contact Ryan Mulcahey, DEM Director of Legislative Affairs, at [ryan.mulcahey@dem.ri.gov](mailto:ryan.mulcahey@dem.ri.gov) should you have any additional questions or wish to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Terrence Gray, P.E.  
Director

cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary  
The Honorable Dawn Euer  
Kristen Silvia, Deputy Chief of Staff and Director of Legislation