

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND



Department of Corrections

Wayne T. Salisbury Jr., Director
40 Howard Avenue
Cranston, RI 02920

Tel: (401) 462-2611
Fax: (401) 462-3953

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

March 10, 2026

Re: S2618– An Act Relating to Criminal Procedure - Identification and Apprehension of Criminals

Dear Chairperson LaMountain:

This evening the Senate Committee on Judiciary will consider Senate Bill #2618. This bill will mandate that the clerk of the district court automatically also seal individual counts of criminal complaints upon dismissal pursuant to rule 48(a) of the rules of criminal procedure for district court. The Rhode Island Department of Corrections (RIDOC) continues to support this legislation.

Individuals who may have had individual counts of a criminal complaint dismissed pursuant to the district court rule of criminal procedure 48(a) should be afforded the same opportunity to have the matter automatically sealed just as those with cases that are dismissed. If the court decides to terminate a matter without imposing liability on the defendant, there is no reason to keep such matters unsealed. Keeping such matters unsealed creates unintended and unnecessary potential barriers to employment, housing, child custody and other circumstances necessary to contribute to one's family and community.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

Sincerely,

Wayne T. Salisbury Jr.
Director

cc: Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary
The Honorable Jacob E. Bissaillon
Kristen Silvia, Director of Legislation and Deputy Chief of Staff