



State of Rhode Island

Department of State | Office of the Secretary of State

Gregg M. Amore, Secretary of State

March 16, 2026

The Honorable Walter S. Felag, Chair
Senate Committee on Special Legislation & Veterans' Affairs

RE: S2412 - An Act Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles - Registration of Vehicles

Dear Chair Felag,

I am writing this letter in support of Senate Bill 2412, legislation that would establish a motor vehicle license plate to honor Governor Roger Williams.

As Rhode Island approaches the 250th anniversary of American independence, my office is proud to play a leading role in the work of the Rhode Island Semiquincentennial Commission (RI250), which is coordinating statewide efforts to commemorate the founding ideals of our nation and our state. Through this work, the Commission is committed to promoting civic education, preserving Rhode Island's historical legacy, and helping residents connect with the people and principles that shaped our democracy.

After being banned from Massachusetts due to his beliefs, Roger Williams founded the settlement of Providence as a place of religious liberty. Furthermore, after establishing positive relations with the Narragansett Indian Tribe, Williams wanted his settlement to provide a secure place for people to express individualism. Williams then successfully led efforts to obtain a royal charter from England's King Charles III establishing Rhode Island as its own colony.

Recognizing figures like Roger Williams reminds us that religious liberty, self-government, and tolerance have deep roots in Rhode Island's history and continue to shape our civic life. Therefore, I urge this Committee and the full Senate to support Senate Bill 2412, as a commemorative license plate is a meaningful way to recognize Williams' influential contributions to the origins of our State and highlight Rhode Island's rich history of freedom and tolerance.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Michelle Arias, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, at marias@sos.ri.gov.

Sincerely,

Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State

cc: The Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Special Legislation & Veterans' Affairs
The Honorable Mark McKenney

State House, Room 218, Providence, RI 02903

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