



**RHODE ISLAND LEAGUE  
OF CITIES AND TOWNS**

*Distinctive Communities  
Powerful Alliance*

February 25, 2025

The Honorable Joseph M. McNamara, Chair  
House Education Committee  
Rhode Island House of Representatives  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: BILL NUMBER H-5421 – AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- SCHOOL BUS SAFETY ENFORCEMENT**

Dear Chairman McNamara and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, I would like to express our appreciation for the intent behind H 5421, which seeks to enhance student safety by requiring that all new school buses be equipped with live digital video school bus violation detection monitoring systems. The safety of our students is of paramount importance to Rhode Island's municipalities, and we commend the General Assembly for considering additional measures to protect children as they travel to and from school.

The League supports the objectives of this legislation as a critical step in deterring dangerous and illegal passing of school buses. However, we respectfully request that H 5421 be amended to adjust the revenue allocation structure under RIGL 31-51-5.1 to more equitably distribute the proceeds from ticket revenue. Specifically, we propose the following allocation:

- 40% to the Vendor for installation, maintenance, and operational costs associated with the digital monitoring systems.
- 30% to the State to support broader enforcement and public safety initiatives.
- 30% to the Municipality where the violation occurs, ensuring that local governments have the resources necessary to enhance student safety and traffic enforcement.

We believe this amendment strikes a fair balance in recognizing the roles of the vendor, the state, and the municipalities in implementing and enforcing this important safety measure. By ensuring an equitable distribution of funds, we can maximize the effectiveness of this program while maintaining a sustainable funding model for all stakeholders.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our perspective. We appreciate the opportunity to collaborate on efforts that prioritize the health and safety of Rhode Island's students and stand ready to work with the bill's sponsor to refine this legislation.

Sincerely,

Randy R. Rossi  
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House Education Committee