



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

**DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES
ADMINISTRATION OFFICE**

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March 5, 2024

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan
Chair, House Committee on Health and Human Services
State House
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: 2024 H-7040- AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES
– OPERATORS’ AND CHAUFFEURS’ LICENSES**

Dear Chair Donovan:

The Division of Motor Vehicles (“DMV”) writes in support of House Bill 7040, An Act Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles – Operators’ and Chauffeurs’ Licenses, and respectfully requests an amendment to eliminate the requirement for implementing rules and regulations.

The proposed bill would require the DMV, in consultation with the Rhode Island Police Chiefs’ Association and the Governor’s Commission on Disabilities, to develop rules and regulations to institute a “Blue Envelope Program” in order to enhance communications between police officers and persons with autism spectrum disorder.

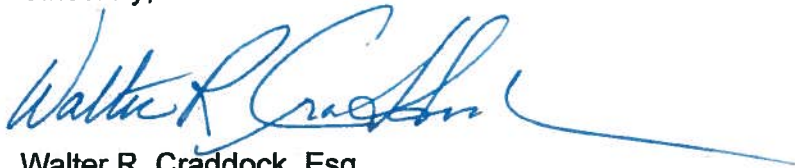
The DMV fully supports measures to improve effective communication and interaction between law enforcement officers and persons with autism spectrum disorder, and similar Blue Envelope programs have worked successfully in other jurisdictions, including our neighboring State of Connecticut. The need for rules and regulations in order to effectuate such a program seems unnecessary, however, and the regulatory process may only delay its implementation. The DMV is therefore requesting an amendment to the bill which would simply authorize the DMV, in consultation with the above organizations, to institute a Blue Envelope program, without the need for rules and regulations. This would ensure that this initiative is fully in place and operational by the bill’s effective date.

The DMV looks forward to working with the sponsor going forward to draft revisions to the proposed bill that are mutually agreeable.

Thank you for your consideration.

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan
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Sincerely,



Walter R. Craddock, Esq.
Administrator

Cc:

The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Health and Human
Services
The Honorable Samuel A. Azzinaro
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House
Thomas A. Verdi, Director, Department of Revenue