



RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

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February 27, 2024

The Honorable Robert E. Craven, Sr.
Chairman
House Committee on Judiciary
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

RE: H 7216 An Act Relating to Criminal Offenses – Weapons

Dear Chairman Craven,

Thank you for providing the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) the opportunity to comment on H 7216, which would require that certain information relating to the ballistics of any seized crime gun be submitted to the state crime laboratory, Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, or the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network. DEM is neutral on the concept of this legislation but recommends that an exemption be added to the legislation for firearms seized during hunting violations.

Firearms used to commit hunting violations are subject to seizure by the DEM Division of Law Enforcement and are typically held until such time as the case has been adjudicated. Though abhorrent, hunting violations are not crimes of violence and the collection and submission of the ballistics information that this legislation would require will delay the return of the seized firearms even after adjudication has occurred. For this reason, DEM recommends that an exemption to the requirements in the legislation be considered for firearms seized during hunting violations.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer comments on this legislation and would be pleased to make ourselves available as needed. Please feel free to contact Dean Hoxsie, Chief of the DEM Division of Law Enforcement, at dean.hoxsie@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 House Committee on Judiciary
The Honorable Jennifer Boylan
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House
Lynne Urbani, House Policy Director