



State of Rhode Island
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE
State Police Headquarters, 311 Danielson Pike, North Scituate, Rhode Island 02857
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT AND DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Colonel Darnell S. Weaver
Superintendent

March 21, 2024

The Honorable Robert E. Craven, Sr., Chair
House Committee on Judiciary
Rhode Island House of Representatives
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: 2024-H 7631– An Act Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles – Motor Vehicle Offenses

Dear Chairman Craven:

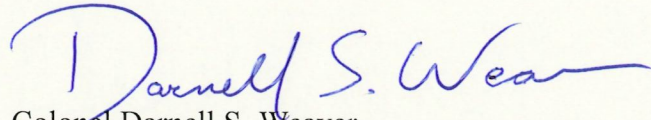
On behalf of the Rhode Island State Police, please accept this letter in support of the legislation currently before the House Committee on Judiciary entitled, "Motor Vehicle Offenses," which would increase the lookback period for third or subsequent Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs offenses from five (5) years to ten (10) years and increase the potential penalty.

Upon information and belief, Rhode Island is the only New England state that does not have a lookback period greater than ten (10) years. In fact, 42 other states have longer lookback periods. Although the majority of states have ten (10) year lookback periods, Massachusetts and Vermont have lifetime lookback periods. Rhode Island is just one of eight states with only a five (5) year lookback period.

Currently, a repeat offender who is charged with a third or subsequent Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs offense is treated as a first-time offender if that subsequent offense occurs five (5) years after the first offense. Having subsequent offenders on the roadways who are treated as first time offenders creates a dangerous situation for the public who travel on our roadways. The current state of the law allows repeat drunk drivers to receive reduced sanctions while being treated as a first-time offender.

I thank you for the opportunity to express the position of the Rhode Island State Police on the legislation currently before the House Committee on Judiciary, H 7631 – "An Act Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles - Motor Vehicle Offenses."

Respectfully,



Colonel Darnell S. Weaver
Superintendent, Rhode Island State Police
Director of Public Safety

cc: House Committee on Judiciary
Nicole McCarty, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House
Major Ronald Longolucco
Adam Sholes, Esq. – DPS Chief Legal Counsel
Governor's Office