

Brett P. Smiley
Mayor

Colonel Oscar L. Perez
Chief of Police



Department of Public Safety, Police Department
"Building Pride in Providence"

February 4, 2025

Chairman Robert Craven
House Committee on Judiciary
Rhode Island House of Representatives
82 Smith Street
Providence RI, 02903

Dear Chairman Craven and Honorable Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 5183, titled Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles – Passing, Use of Lanes, and Rules of the Road. If passed, this bill would permit lane filtering, allowing motorcycles to pass stopped or slow-moving vehicles in the same direction at low speeds.

Providence is one of the most densely populated cities in the state, with high volumes of traffic and frequent accidents. Given the constant lane changes, sudden stops, and the unpredictable opening of car doors, introducing lane filtering would significantly increase the risk of collisions. This is especially concerning on Providence's narrow side streets, where limited space and parked cars on both sides create tight and often unpredictable travel conditions.

Furthermore, Providence is a city with a high number of pedestrians—residents and visitors alike—who rely on its many intersections, crosswalks, and bike lanes. Allowing motorcycles to weave between vehicles unpredictably could reduce visibility for both drivers and pedestrians, increasing the likelihood of serious accidents.

For these safety reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to vote against House Bill 5183.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Oscar L. Perez", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Oscar L. Perez
Colonel
Chief of Police