



**RHODE ISLAND SUPREME COURT**

*Office of General Counsel*

Licht Judicial Complex

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March 11, 2025

**Via Electronic Mail (HouseJudiciary@rilegislature.gov)**

Chairman Robert E. Craven, Sr.  
House Committee on the Judiciary  
Rhode Island State House  
House Lounge  
Providence, RI 02903

**Re: House Bill #5900: An Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles – Motor Vehicles Offenses**

Dear Chairman Craven:

I write on behalf of the Judiciary to express support for House Bill #5900, scheduled to be heard this evening before the House Judiciary Committee. If enacted, this bill would “clean up” and clarify R.I. Gen. Law §31-27-4, “Reckless driving and other offenses against public safety” by creating separate and distinct criminal classifications of felony and misdemeanor reckless driving offenses. The current statute does not distinguish between a felony and misdemeanor offense. Without separated categories the Judiciary’s electronic filing system is unable to “code” the event as a misdemeanor or felony, and law enforcement agencies cannot file a reckless driving complaint reflecting the criminal classification.

I ask that the House Judiciary Committee consider passage of this legislation. Thank you for the opportunity to express the Judiciary’s support for this bill.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Kelly  
General Counsel  
Rhode Island Supreme Court