



**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR**

Department of Transportation  
Two Capitol Hill  
Providence, RI 02903

Office 401-222-2481  
Fax 401-222-2086  
[www.dot.ri.gov](http://www.dot.ri.gov)

March 05, 2025

The Honorable Robert E. Craven, Sr.  
Chair, House Judiciary Committee  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: 2025 H- 5640 AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES –PASSING, USE OF LANES, AND RULES OF THE ROAD**

Dear Chairman, Craven:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of support regarding H-5640. This bill, "Adds a provision in the statute relating to one-way highways, providing an increased penalty when a motorist travels the wrong way on an interstate highway or an entrance or exit ramp connected to an interstate highway.

In 2024, the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) Wrong Way Detection systems detected 61 incidents where a motorist travelled the wrong way on our roadways. These systems are designed to alert motorists and give them an opportunity to correct this behavior, who may have become inadvertently turned around or disoriented as a result of unfamiliar locations, weather, or other circumstances outside of their control.

RIDOT fully supports this bill, and any efforts which serve to strengthen the safety of our roadways and discourage dangerous and deadly driving behavior practices. This bill if enacted, motorists who travel the wrong way on an interstate highway, or an interstate entrance ramp or exit ramp, shall be subject to fines up to five-hundred dollars and license suspension up to six months. RIDOT requests that the six-month suspension should be removed from the proposed legislation because not all wrong way detections are a result of impaired, or irresponsible driving behavior.

We thank the committee for their efforts and are available to answer any questions you may have.

We encourage the committee to consider both the need for dedicated funding and the alignment of responsibilities to ensure the best outcome for this initiative.

Sincerely,

Peter Alviti, Jr., P.E.

Director, Rhode Island Department of Transportation

cc: The Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee  
The Honorable Raymond A. Hull  
Nicole McCarty Esq., Chief of Legal Counsel