

Roberta DiMezza

From: Jennifer Lima <jlima2647@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 11:28 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: H5502

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H5502
Support
Jennifer Lima

Chair Craven and Members of the Committee,

I am writing today in support of H5502 which would further delineate the definitions of felony, misdemeanor and petty misdemeanor.

This bill clarifies that a sentence for a misdemeanor in RI is 364 days. The current language states that these charges can carry a term **“not exceeding one year”**.

Because of the overlap between federal and RI laws, someone can be deported for a crime that is a misdemeanor but, unfortunately, carries a sentence of up to one year. By changing the sentence a misdemeanor can carry to a maximum of 364 days, we can avoid the overlap between the state law and federal deportational law.

This law will have a huge impact and I urge you to pass it out of committee and send it to the floor for a vote.

Thank you,
Jennifer Lima
4 Hickory Drive East
North Kingstown, RI

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Jennifer Lima (she/her/hers)

[Why Pronouns Matter](#)

[Talking About Pronouns in the Workplace - HRC Foundation \(thehrcfoundation.org\)](https://thehrcfoundation.org/talking-about-pronouns-in-the-workplace)

"Diversity is a fact. Equity is a choice. Inclusion is an action. Belonging is an outcome." - Arthur Chan

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