State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-1196
401-222-2080

Donald L. Carcieri
Governor

November 9, 2009

TO THE HONORABLE, THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 14, Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Rhode Island and Section 43-1-4 of the Rhode Island General Laws, I transmit, with my disapproval, 2009 S 0237, as amended, "An Act Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles—Division of Motor Vehicles."

If enacted into law, this legislation would require the administrator of the Division of Motor Vehicles ("DMV") to maintain a branch office in the Town of Westerly and keep that branch open for business at least one (1) day per week.

As you are aware, the State of Rhode Island is currently facing a severe fiscal crisis. Rhode Island taxpayers are unable to afford initiatives that would increase an already significant strain on State resources. In December 2008, a management decision was made to close the Westerly DMV branch office. Westerly was selected because of its location, the amount of customers served and its proximity to the DMV Wakefield branch. Based on a business decision, employees from the Westerly branch were re-assigned to provide additional service for customers at the Wakefield and Pawtucket branches. Consequently, the waiting area in the Wakefield DMV branch was expanded to provide additional seating for customers.

In addition to start up and operating expenses for items such as new information technology systems, electrical set-up and furniture, there would be personnel costs associated with reengaging the operations of a DMV facility in Westerly. These start-up costs would be the same regardless of how many days the branch would be open. Additionally, to operate a DMV branch office in Westerly, DMV staff would have to be reassigned from other DMV offices to provide services which would result in further reducing staff coverage at other key locations. In addition, the establishment of a DMV branch in Westerly will not result in any corresponding increase in revenue being generated because any revenues collected in Westerly would simply represent a shift from other branch offices.

Management decisions, such as where to locate DMV branches and the hours of operation, should be left in the hands of the Executive Branch. As demographics change and as

new technology and opportunities present themselves, my Administration is fully willing to reevaluate operations on a continuous basis in an effort to improve the level of service for all of our citizens, including the residents of Westerly. However, in order to do so, management flexibility is required and the General Assembly should refrain from imposing statutory mandates such as this on the Executive Branch.

For these reasons, I disapprove of this legislation and respectfully urge your support of this veto.

Sincerely,

Donald L. Carcieri
Governor