State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
State House, Room 224
Providence, Rhode Island 02903
401-222-2080

Lincoln D. Chafee
Governor

June 25, 2012

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, 2012– S-3074, "An Act Relating to Criminal Procedure –Search Warrants."

This act would require law enforcement officials to obtain a search warrant to search any electronic device. Although well-intentioned, the language of this bill is extremely broad. Search and seizure law is fact specific. At present, Rhode Island citizens have the protection of the Fourth Amendment to United States Constitution and Article I, Section 6 of the Rhode Island Constitution. The courts, and not the legislature, are better suited to resolve these complex and case specific issues.

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

Sincerely,

Lincoln D. Chafee