



State of Rhode Island

Department of State | Office of the Secretary of State

Nellie M. Gorbea, *Secretary of State*

March 2, 2021

The Honorable Marvin Abney, Chairman
House Committee on Finance
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairman Abney:

I am writing in support of House bill 5541, introduced by Representative Tobon. The bill would replace the current license fee structure with a flat license fee. Currently, the license fee is pro-rated so that an entity with fewer than seventy-five million authorized shares pays the minimum license fee of \$160. Entities with more than seventy-five million authorized shares are assessed a fee equal to one-fifth of a cent per share.

Since 2014, my office has not had an instance where an entity paid a license fee above \$160. Passage of this legislation will streamline the license fee process and not have an impact on the state budget.

As always, my office is available to provide any additional information that maybe helpful to the committee.

Thank you for your consideration of House bill 5541 and I respectfully urge its passage.

Sincerely,

Nellie M. Gorbea
Secretary of State

cc: The Honorable Carlos E. Tobon
House Committee on Finance members