



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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Peter F. Neronha
Attorney General

March 4, 2025

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.
Chairman
House Committee on Corporations
State House, House Lounge
Providence, RI 02903

Re: HB 5247: Deceptive Trade Practices

Dear Chairman Solomon and Members of the House Committee on Corporations,

I write today in support of HB 5247, sponsored by Representative Brandon Potter, legislation that would require companies to use the actual price they would sell a good or service for in their advertising. When businesses compete based on quality, service, and pricing rather than who can most creatively charge hidden “junk” fees, consumers, small businesses, and the wider Rhode Island economy win.

As the State’s primary consumer advocate, my Office continues to champion efforts to make our marketplace more transparent and competitive. Our Consumer and Economic Justice Unit often receives complaints about “junk” fees that are tacked onto purchases without the knowledge or consent of the consumers. These types of hidden fees make it nearly impossible for even the most well-informed consumers to price-shop. For example, national studies have shown that junk fees can raise the prices of goods or services in a market by more than 20 percent.

I applaud the introduction of this important consumer protection legislation. As always, I support the Committee’s consideration and am available for any further questions it may have.

Sincerely,

Peter F. Neronha
Attorney General