

March 24, 2025

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr. Chair
House Corporations Committee
Rhode Island House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: BILL NUMBER H-5558 – AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- CONTRACTORS' REGISTRATION AND LICENSING BOARD

Chair Solomon and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, I am writing to express our support for House Bill 5558, which would require all applicants seeking to register as a contractor to provide a legible copy of a valid government-issued identification.

The League represents the interests of Rhode Island's 39 cities and towns, advocating for policies that enhance local government operations and ensure the safety and well-being of residents. House Bill 5558 aligns with these goals by strengthening contractor registration requirements and promoting greater accountability in the construction industry.

By mandating that all applicants provide valid identification, this legislation will:

- Enhance consumer protection by ensuring that registered contractors are properly identified and accountable.
- Improve regulatory enforcement and prevent fraudulent or unlicensed activity within the industry.
- Support municipalities in their oversight of local construction projects by providing clear and verifiable documentation for registered contractors.

Requiring valid government-issued identification is a common-sense measure that aligns Rhode Island's contractor registration process with best practices observed in other professional licensing and regulatory frameworks. This small but significant change will bolster confidence in the integrity of the state's contractor registry and provide additional safeguards for property owners, businesses, and municipalities alike.

For these reasons, we urge the committee to support House Bill 5558. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you require any additional information.

We appreciate you taking the time to consider our perspective.

Sincerely,



Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House Corporations Committee
Representative Mary Ann Shallcross Smith