



January 20, 2026

Opposition to H.7065 – Reduction in Added Sugar in Liquid Beverages

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon Jr.
Chair, House Corporations Committee
Rhode Island House of Representatives
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairman Solomon and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Rhode Island Retail Federation, we respectfully submit this letter in opposition to H.7065, which would mandate a 50 percent reduction in added sugars in liquid beverages sold in Rhode Island.

Retailers support efforts to promote public health, but this legislation raises serious concerns regarding regulatory overreach, supply chain disruption, and unintended consequences for retailers and consumers alike. The bill imposes a one-size-fits-all product mandate that interferes with consumer choice and places Rhode Island outside established federal standards and regional norms.

Retailers—particularly small, independent stores—rely on national and regional distribution systems and do not control product formulation. A state-specific reformulation requirement would significantly complicate inventory management, increase costs, reduce product availability, and potentially lead manufacturers to limit or withdraw certain products from the Rhode Island market.

Public health objectives are best advanced through education, transparency, and collaboration rather than prescriptive mandates that risk economic harm without clear evidence of effectiveness. For these reasons, the Rhode Island Retail Federation respectfully urges the House Corporations Committee to oppose H. 7065.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Laurie White

Laurie White
Rhode Island Retail Federation