



**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS REGULATION
1511 Pontiac Avenue, Bldg. 68-1
Cranston, Rhode Island 02920**



May 20, 2026

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

Re: H 8414- An Act Relating to Agriculture and Forestry – Hemp Growth Act – Rhode Island Hemp THC Beverage Act

Dear Chairman Solomon,

I write on behalf of the Department of Business Regulation to express concerns with regard to H 8414.

Hemp growers, handlers, hemp-derivative product distributors and retailers are currently licensed and regulated by the Cannabis Control Commission (“CCC”). See 2025 P.L. ch. 278, art.3 eff. 6/29/2025 (“Article 3”). Article 3 transferred licensing and regulatory authority under the Hemp Growth Act, R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 2-26, from the DBR to CCC, bringing resources, subject matter expertise, oversight, and enforcement over all cannabis products and derivatives, including hemp beverages, within the same agency, the CCC. The bill, as written, would bring DBR into the CCC’s regulatory purview (see bill sections 2-26-4; 21-28.13-10(e)). Re-inserting DBR into hemp regulation is not necessary; it would be duplicative and cause confusion for businesses and consumers. Keeping regulation of all cannabis products within CCC, a single, specialized agency, makes good sense for businesses, consumers and will best ensure consistency and compliance with the federal Farm Act, 7 U.S.C.A. §1639o-s.

Thank you for consideration of the Department’s testimony.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Kelleher Dwyer, Esq.
Director, Department of Business Regulation

Cc: Honorable Members of the House Committee on Corporations
Honorable Patricia A. Serpa
Danica Iacoi, Chief of Staff
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy