



February 26, 2026

The Honorable David A. Bennett
Chairman
House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

RE: H 7423 Relating to State Affairs and Government – Department of Administration

Dear Chairman Bennett,

Thank you for providing the Department of Administration and Department of Environmental Management (the “Agencies”) the opportunity to comment on H 7423, which would require the Division of Statewide Planning to conduct a statewide wastewater capacity study evaluating the “capacity, flows, physical condition, regulatory compliance, and vulnerability to natural hazards of publicly and privately owned wastewater infrastructure throughout the state.” The Agencies note that there are existing reports and plans which provide the information identified in the legislation, and that existing resources are not sufficient to compile this facility-specific information into a statewide report.

Specifically, the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) has existing regulations that require wastewater treatment facilities to develop Wastewater Facility Plans (FPs) as a condition of receiving an Order of Approval for the design and construction of a wastewater treatment facility and/or sewer extension – see §1.15(A)(2) of the Rhode Island Water Quality Regulations. These FPs must include the same elements outlined in the legislation, including, but not limited to, an assessment of existing wastewater infrastructure, land-use, and existing and future wastewater flows. A full checklist of information that is included in a FP can be found [here](#). This information is a public record which DEM would be happy to share with the General Assembly.

In addition to the above, the DOA Rhode Island Division of Statewide Planning requires individual communities to include wastewater infrastructure needs in their Community Comprehensive Plans (CCP). In accordance with [§ 45-22.2-10\(b\)](#), the Division of Statewide Planning has developed standards to assist municipalities in the incorporation of state goals and policies into comprehensive plans, and to assist the Division in the review of comprehensive plans. [The Comprehensive Planning Standards Manual](#) published by the Division is how this requirement is met. The Act requires comprehensive plans to provide an inventory of “existing physical infrastructure” and descriptions of “services provided to the community”. Section 7 of

the Manual details how municipalities need to identify the existing significant public infrastructure and facilities including wastewater infrastructure for which the municipality is responsible, if any. Together, the Comprehensive Community plans and the DEM FP comprehensively address the concerns of this Bill.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer comments on this legislation and would be pleased to make ourselves available as needed. Please feel free to contact Ryan Mulcahey, DEM Director of Legislative Affairs, at ryan.mulcahey@dem.ri.gov should you have any additional questions or wish to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,



Terrence Gray, P.E.
Director
Department of Environmental Management



Meredith E. Brady
Associate Director
Division of Statewide Planning,
Department of Administration

cc: Honorable Members of the House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
The Honorable June Speakman
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House
Lynne Urbani, House Policy Director