



State of Rhode Island

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPRESENTATIVE REBECCA KISLAK, *District 4*
Second Vice-Chair; Committee on Education
Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Committee on Health and Human Services
Committee on Innovation, Internet and Technology

February 27, 2024

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chairman
House Finance Committee

By e-mail: HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov

Re: Budget Article 3, Section 17

Dear Chairman Abney and members of the committee:

I am writing today in strong opposition to the changes proposed in Article 3, Section 17. The General Assembly passed [H6239A](#) last year. This bill created a landlord registry and connected the registry to the requirement for lead certificates for properties built before 1978. The bill **as passed** was important in its entirety and we should not undo what we just did. I will note here, too, that I have introduced separate landlord registry legislation in 2022 and 2023; last year in [H5225](#).

A landlord registry is important public policy. At this time when we are rightly focused on housing, a registry **will help us understand how many rental units** we have in Rhode Island, and better understand the rental market. It will help us **connect properties to lead certificate requirements**. And, finally, it **will help tenants understand who their landlord is**. (It is surprisingly common that, in this time when LLCs and corporations own many rental properties, that some tenants have incredible difficulty figuring out who their landlord is.) All three of these reasons are important for our constituents and our state policy. I strongly support the bill that we passed, and we should reject any attempt to undo it.

I thank you for your careful consideration of the proposed legislative changes in Article 3, Section 17 and urge you to reject them.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Kislak".

Representative Rebecca Kislak

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