



State of Rhode Island

**Department of State | Office of the Secretary of State**

**Gregg M. Amore**, *Secretary of State*

April 22, 2025

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney, Chair  
House Committee on Finance

RE: H5315 – An Act Relating to Elections – General Provisions

Dear Chair Abney,

I write this letter in support of House Bill 5315, legislation that would allow retired election officials to work for the State Board of Elections on a temporary basis in any year in which a general election is held.

The Department of State serves Rhode Islanders by strengthening our democracy through a commitment to civic engagement and enhancing the way we run elections in this State. One way to ensure this is by acknowledging the expertise of individuals who have been or are on the frontlines administering our elections, and simultaneously acknowledging the difficulty in recruiting temporary staff to carry out this essential role in upholding our democracy.

We believe House Bill 5315 would help with recruiting individuals who are experienced in this field. This, in practice, would alleviate the burden from the State board, which has limited time and resources to train and oversee these individuals in carrying out these critical administrative election functions.

Election officials are instrumental in protecting our elections, and their efforts, whether managing a polling place or preparing voting equipment, are what encourage the public to have faith and confidence in the security and transparency of our elections.

I urge this committee and the full House to support House Bill 5315, as it will allow the State Board to tap into a pool of election experts that can seamlessly continue to oversee and maintain our election processes and infrastructure.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Michelle Arias, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, at [marias@sos.ri.gov](mailto:marias@sos.ri.gov).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gregg M. Amore  
Secretary of State

cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance  
The Honorable Alex Finkelman

State House, Room 218, Providence, RI 02903

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