



Director's Office

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Jonathan Womer, Director

May 5, 2025

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney
Chairperson
House Committee on Finance
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairperson Abney,

Thank you for providing the Department of Administration ("Department") with the opportunity to submit updates in regards to Governor's Budget Amendment (GBA) #10 to the FY 2026 Appropriations Act (25-H-5076), which proposes the creation of new job classifications for new or existing specialized information technology positions and adds 15.0 FTE positions within the Division of Enterprise Technology Strategy and Services (ETSS) to replace contractors and fill critical IT and security roles.

Following the submission of GBA #10, the Department has engaged in a productive dialogue with RI Council 94 and drafted compromise language that meets the Department's need of nimbly creating accurate job classifications that attract talent with the necessary skill sets while also addressing the employee protection concerns of Council 94.

The amended language is attached and we respectfully request that GBA #10 be updated to reflect this consensus language.

The Division appreciates the opportunity to share this updated language with the Committee and appreciates your continued partnership. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact my office at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Womer

Director, Department of Administration

cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance
Sharon Reynolds Ferland, House Fiscal Advisor
Michael McDonald, President, Rhode Island Council 94
John Monse, Jr., State Vice-President, Local 2448
Christopher O'Brien, Committee Clerk

ARTICLE 1, RELATING TO MAKING APPROPRIATIONS IN SUPPORT OF FY 2026

SECTION 12, FY 2026 FTE POSITION AUTHORIZATION

Department of Administration

Page 37, Lines 3 and 4: Strike “669.6” and replace with “684.6” and strike “419.1” and replace with “434.1”.

ARTICLE 3, RELATING TO GOVERNMENT REFORM AND REORGANIZATION

New Section 14.

Page 87, After Line 13, Insert the following and renumber all subsequent sections accordingly:

SECTION 14. Chapter 36-4 of the General Laws entitled “Merit System” is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

36-4-15.1. Specialized information technology positions in state service.

(a) For purposes of this section: **Definition:** “specialized information technology position” means a technical or specialized job classification in state service under the supervision ~~and/or purview~~ of the division of enterprise technology strategy and services (“ETSS”), within the department of administration. Such positions may include, ~~but are not limited to, roles associated with the selection, design, implementation, security, administration, maintenance, and operations of emerging and existing technologies such as~~ information technology leadership roles (i.e., chief information officer, chief technology officer, chief information security officer, etc.) ~~software/application/cloud architects, engineers, developers, and/or programmers, cybersecurity professionals, artificial intelligence analysts, data/database/cloud administrators, and any other information technology positions of a specialized and/or technical nature~~ which are supervisory, confidential, or managerial as defined by chapter 7 of title 28 and the rules or regulations of the Rhode Island State Labor Relations Board. There shall be no more than 15 specialized information technology positions employed by the state in any fiscal year.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of any ~~general or special~~ law or regulation to the contrary, including the personnel rules adopted pursuant to § 36-4-8, the personnel administrator, in their sole discretion, may modify, change or amend any official pay plan for employees in the classified or unclassified service in order to create new job classifications, and/or modify the title, content or pay grade of an existing job classification, for any

new or existing specialized information technology positions ~~as requested by the Chief Digital Officer~~ as defined above. All information technology job specifications, and corresponding paygrades, shall be reviewed annually to maintain accuracy and fluency with emerging technologies, operating systems, and/or applications.

(c) The personnel administrator is hereby authorized to take whatever administrative action is necessary to implement the changes to the official pay plans ~~made pursuant to this section with respect to new or existing~~ for specialized information technology positions, as defined in this section, without conducting a public hearing or obtaining the approval of the Governor prior to the implementation of any such action.

(d) Within thirty (30) days after any personnel action under this section, the personnel administrator shall file a written report with the Governor, the Speaker of the House, the Senate President, and the Chairpersons of the House and Senate finance committees. This report shall include:

- (1) The title and paygrade of the position(s);
- (2) The job description of the position; and
- (3) The reason why the position is necessary.

The personnel administrator shall also post the report on the division of human resources' website for at least one year.

(e) The provisions of this section shall not apply to any specialized information technology position utilized by ETSS that is part of a collective bargaining unit established and certified by the Rhode Island State Labor Relations Board or which are eligible to be accreted into an existing collective bargaining unit pursuant to chapter 7 of title 28 and the rules or regulations of the Rhode Island state labor relations board.

(f) Except as authorized by chapter 7 of title 28 and the rules or regulations of the Rhode Island state labor relations board, nothing shall permit the conversion of any/all information technology positions in the classified, unclassified, or non-classified, covered by a collective bargaining unit to any/all specialized information technology position utilized by ETSS.