



State of Rhode Island
Office of the General Treasurer

James A. Diossa
General Treasurer

3 March 2026

The Honorable Marvin Abney
Chair, House Committee on Finance

The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance

RE: *2026-H 7127, Art. 5, Section 1, Relating Taxes and Fees - Rhode Island Tax Amnesty Act of 2026*

Chair Abney,

I write in strong support of budget Article 5, Section 1, which authorizes the Tax Administrator to waive certain interest and penalties on unpaid delinquent taxes, provided that the underlying tax is paid in full – or where an individual has entered into an installment payment agreement – during a 75-day tax amnesty period, ending February 15, 2027. This initiative, as outlined in the Rhode Island Tax Amnesty Act of 2026, presents a practical, fiscally responsible opportunity to improve compliance and recover revenue otherwise at risk of remaining uncollected.

Many taxpayers who fall behind do not do so out of disregard for the law. Job loss, health issues, familial obligations or other economic disruptions can cause even the most well-intentioned of our neighbors to defer tax obligations. As penalties and interest accumulate, re-payment can seem too daunting and often causes people to disengage with the system altogether.

By reducing penalties, fees, and interest due on payment, this provision presents a constructive path to compliance. It provides an opportunity to resolve outstanding liabilities and offers a fresh start. Tax amnesty provisions also reinforce respect for the tax system. It sends a signal that – while the state values compliance and accountability – it recognizes that compassion and pragmatism can be effective tools of enforcement as well. And when a system is fair, people are more likely to comply going forward, thereby expanding expected returns.

Rhode Island has successfully implemented similar programs in past years. This legislation balances fiscal responsibility with administrative fairness and provides immediate financial benefit to the state while helping taxpayers resolve past obligations and regain good standing.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly or to my Director of Policy and Intergovernmental Affairs, Robert Craven, Jr., at Robert.CravenJr@treasury.ri.gov.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JD' or similar initials, enclosed within a circular flourish.

James A. Diossa
General Treasurer