



May 7, 2026

Honorable Marvin L. Abney
Chairman, House Committee on Finance
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H7398 – SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Abney:

On behalf of the Rhode Island Business Leaders Alliance (the “Alliance”), I write in support of H7398 – An Act Relating to Taxation -- Rhode Island Tax Amnesty Act of 2017.

H7398 would authorize the tax administrator to waive interest and penalties on unpaid delinquent taxes, provided the tax is paid in full during a one-week tax amnesty period to be determined each fiscal year by the tax administrator. The bill would also provide that, upon payment in full of all delinquent taxes pursuant to the amnesty provision, a driver’s license suspended due to nonpayment of taxes shall be reinstated with all associated privileges.

The Alliance supports H7398 because it creates a practical and targeted mechanism to encourage voluntary compliance and bring delinquent taxpayers back into good standing. For many taxpayers, accumulated penalties and interest can become a significant barrier to resolving an outstanding liability, even when the taxpayer is prepared to pay the principal tax owed. A limited amnesty period that allows those amounts to be waived in exchange for full payment is a sensible way to promote collection, improve compliance, and resolve liabilities that might otherwise remain outstanding.

From a business perspective, this is a constructive and results-oriented approach. It gives taxpayers a meaningful incentive to come forward, satisfy their obligations, and move on, while allowing the State to collect revenue that might otherwise be delayed or go uncollected. In that respect, H7398 supports both fairness and fiscal practicality. The bill does not forgive the underlying tax liability; it conditions relief on payment in full during a narrowly defined amnesty window.

The Alliance also recognizes the value of the bill’s driver’s license reinstatement provision. For many Rhode Islanders, the ability to drive is closely tied to employment, business operations, and basic financial stability. Restoring driving privileges upon full payment of delinquent taxes can help taxpayers return to work, remain productive, and avoid the cascading consequences that often follow a license suspension. That, in turn, can improve the likelihood of continued compliance and economic participation.

H7398 is a measured proposal and strikes an appropriate balance between enforcement and resolution. The Alliance suggests a longer amnesty period - ninety days, as opposed to one week, but is supportive of this legislation regardless.

For these reasons, the Alliance respectfully urges the Committee to support H7398.

Sincerely,

Gregory Tumolo

Gregory Tumolo, Executive Director
Rhode Island Business Leaders Alliance

CC:
Members of the House Committee on Finance