



# Director's Office

One Capitol Hill | Providence, RI 02908 | (401) 222-2280

April 8, 2026

The Honorable Jacquelyn M. Baginski  
Chairperson  
House Committee on Innovation and Technology  
Rhode Island House of Representatives  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

**Re: House Bill No. 7544 – Public Property and Works – State Purchases**

Dear Chairperson Baginski,

Thank you for providing the Rhode Island Department of Administration (“Department”) with the opportunity to comment on House Bill No. 7544.

As written, this legislation could greatly reduce the State’s flexibility to procure the appropriate Information Technology (“IT”) solutions needed to address business requirements. Specifically, the terms “hardware” and “software” are undefined, which renders an unlimited interpretation, making the bill overly broad. As a result, this bill would restrict our ability to contract with vendors whose business models require strategic partnerships with specific software or hardware solutions. In the fast-evolving world of Software as a Service (SaaS) and artificial intelligence solutions this could put the state at a disadvantage for competing on price or business requirements. This legislation could also potentially force unplanned and improperly sequenced investments in IT systems modernization because the requirements of the legislation would apply to contracts as they expire and force us into different products.

The Department supports flexibility for IT license transfers, and while this legislation may be well intentioned, placing restrictions on the State’s ability to contract and be agile in IT procurements is not in the State’s best interest.

Please feel free to reach out to my team for any additional feedback.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Tardiff". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Brian Tardiff  
Chief Digital Officer

Jay Hauser  
State Purchasing Agent

cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Innovation and Technology  
The Honorable Julie A. Casimiro  
Nicole McCarty, Esq. Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House  
Dawn Huntley, Clerk