



RHODE ISLAND SUPREME COURT

Office of General Counsel

Licht Judicial Complex

250 Benefit Street

Providence, RI 02903

401-222-8714/401-222-8634 (Fax)

March 11, 2025

Via Electronic Mail (HouseJudiciary@rilegislature.gov)

The Honorable Robert E. Craven

House Judiciary Committee

Rhode Island State House

House Lounge

Providence, RI 02903

Re: House Bill #5641: An Act Relating to Courts and Civil Procedure - Procedure In Particular Actions - Small Claims and Consumer Claims

Dear Chairman Craven:

I write on behalf of the Rhode Island Judiciary and the Rhode Island District Court to express our support for House #5641, scheduled to be heard this evening before the House Judiciary Committee. If enacted, this bill would amend R.I. Gen Laws §§ 10-16-4, 10-16-9 and 10-16-14 to establish a set filing fee to appeal from a small claims and consumer matter heard in the District Court, as well as establish a set fee for filing a compulsory counterclaim.

Currently, District Court filing fees vary in amount, which requires court clerks to calculate each fee manually, and requires attorneys and self-represented litigants to come to the courthouse to file an appeal. Uniform filing fees will reduce the workload of court clerks and allow attorneys and self-represented litigant to file appeals electronically, eliminating the need to come to the courthouse.

Thank you for the opportunity to express the Judiciary's support for this bill. I am always available should you have any questions or wish to discuss further.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Kelly

General Counsel

Rhode Island Supreme Court