



## **RHODE ISLAND SUPREME COURT**

*Office of General Counsel*

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March 11, 2025

**Via Electronic Mail (HouseJudiciary@rilegislature.gov)**

The Honorable Robert E. Craven

House Judiciary Committee

Rhode Island General Assembly

House Lounge

Providence, RI 02903

**Re: House Bill #5642: An Act Relating to Courts and Civil Procedure - Procedure Generally - District Court Practice**

Dear Chairman Craven:

I write on behalf of the Rhode Island Judiciary and the Rhode Island District Court to express our support for House Bill #5642, scheduled to be heard this evening before the House Judiciary Committee. If enacted, this bill would amend R.I. Gen Laws §§ 9-2-10 and 9-2-10.1 to establish a set filing fee for appeals from the District Court to the Superior Court.

Currently, filing fees vary and must be individually calculated for each appeal. Therefore, attorneys and self-represented litigants must come to court to file an appeal. Passage of this legislation will reduce the workload of court clerks who currently must manually calculate all filing fees. More importantly, passage will simplify the filing process for attorneys and self-represented litigant and allow them to file an appeal electronically, thereby 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