



Director's Office

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

Jonathan Womer, Director

March 11, 2025

The Honorable Representative Robert Craven, Sr.
Chairperson, House Committee on Judiciary
Rhode Island House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: House Bill No. 5905 – An Act Relating to Parks and Recreational Areas – Public Use of Private Lands-Liability Limitations

Dear Chairperson Craven,

Thank you for providing the Department of Administration (“Department”) with the opportunity to submit comments in response to House Bill No. 5905, which would change the definition of owner to exclude the State of Rhode Island (“State”) and municipalities for the purposes of liability limitations relating to public use of private lands.

Removing “state and municipalities” from the definition of “owner” in R.I. General Law § 32-6-2 would mean that the State and municipalities would no longer be entitled to the same protections and limitations on liability as other landowners. These limitations for property owners are provided in R.I. General Law § 32-6-3.

Respectfully, the Department believes that removing these limitations and exposing the State and municipalities to additional liability is not in the State’s best interest.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Womer
Director, Department of Administration

cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
Nicole McCarty, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House
Roberta DiMezza, Committee Clerk
Lynn Urbani, Director of House Policy