



Director's Office

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Jonathan Womer, Director

January 29, 2026

The Honorable Carol Hagan McEntee
Chairperson
House Committee on Judiciary
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: House Bill 7038 – An Act Relating To Courts And Civil Procedure--Procedure Generally -- Fees

Dear Chairperson McEntee,

Thank you for providing the Department of Administration (the "Department") the opportunity to submit our concerns in response to House Bill No. 7038, which establishes a set rate of seventy dollars (\$70.00) for certain writs, citations or subpoenas.

The Department is not commenting on the overall merits of the legislation but rather wishes to raise an unintended consequence. Switching the legislative set rate of serving certain writs, citations, or subpoenas from a ceiling of \$70 to a minimum fee of not less than \$70 will result in an unplanned budgetary impact that could be significant to high-volume state agency users – particularly the Office of Child Support Services within the Department of Human Services.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to share our concerns over this legislation with the Committee. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact my office at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Womer
Director, Department of Administration

cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
The Honorable Arthur J. Corvese
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House
Roberta DiMezza, Committee Clerk