



Supreme Court
Office of General Counsel

Licht Judicial Complex
250 Benefit Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

February 26, 2026

Via Electronic Mail (HouseJudiciary@rilegislature.gov)

Chair Carol Hagan McEntee
House Committee on Judiciary
Rhode Island State House
House Lounge
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

RE: House Bill #7643: An Act Relating to Courts and Civil Procedure – Procedure in Particular Actions – Small Claims and Consumer Claims

Dear Chair Carol Hagan McEntee:

I write on behalf of the Rhode Island Judiciary to express our support for House Bill #7643, scheduled to be heard this evening before the House Committee on Judiciary. 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 claim and /or consumer claim or counterclaim heard in the District Court. The proposed legislation also increases the threshold amount for a compulsory counterclaim from two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) to five thousand dollars (\$5,000).

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 litigants to file an appeal electronically, eliminating the need to come to the courthouse which would assist both attorneys and self-represented litigants. Additionally, increasing the maximum amount for a compulsory counterclaim to five thousand dollars (\$5,000) brings it into alignment with the jurisdictional amount for a plaintiff's claim.

Thank you for the opportunity to express the Judiciary's support for this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to express the Judiciary's support for this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Wyrzykowski".

Chrisanne Wyrzykowski
General Counsel