



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND JUDICIARY

SUPREME COURT
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

Licht Judicial Complex
250 Benefit Street
Providence, RI 02903

March 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 #7644: An Act Relating to Courts and Civil Procedure – Procedure Generally – Fees

Dear Chair Carol Hagan McEntee:

I write on behalf of the Rhode Island Judiciary to express support for House Bill #7644, scheduled to be heard this evening before the House Committee on Judiciary. If enacted, this bill would amend R.I. Gen Laws §§ 9-29-1, 9-29-18 and 9-29-19 by minimally increasing certain fees in the Superior Court, District Court, and Family Court. The fee increase would then allow an additional sum to be forwarded to Rhode Island Legal Services.

At present, R.I. Gen Laws §§ 9-29-1, 9-29-18 and 9-29-19 forwards a portion of the fees collected pursuant to these statutes to Rhode Island Legal Services, which provides legal assistance and representation to low-income individuals and other eligible client groups in Rhode Island. The sums provided to Rhode Island Legal Services through these statutes is currently limited to five (\$5) to ten (\$10) dollars per applicable filing, which amounts have not been updated since they were enacted into law in 1997 and 2009. The proposed legislation seeks to increase the sums provided to Rhode Island Legal Services to twenty (\$20) dollars per applicable filing, providing greater funding to support Rhode Island Legal Services.

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,

Chrisanne Wyrzykowski

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General Counsel