

2026 -- H 8051

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

AN ACT

RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE -- PROCEDURE GENERALLY --
CAUSES OF ACTION

Introduced By: Representative Stephen M. Casey

Date Introduced: February 27, 2026

Referred To: House Judiciary

House Judiciary Committee

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF NEW ENGLAND PROPERTY SERVICES
GROUP, LLC IN FAVOR OF PASSAGE**

Dear Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

INTRODUCTION

New England Property Services Group, LLC respectfully submits this written testimony in support of **H8051**, which proposes amendments to Section 9-1-18 of the General Laws, Chapter 9-1, entitled "Causes of Action." The amendments specifically address the tolling of statutes of limitations in certain circumstances. The proposed changes are intended to provide clarity and fairness for Rhode Island residents seeking redress while ensuring compliance with business registration requirements in the state.

PROPOSED AMENDEMENTS

- **R.I. Gen. Laws § 9-1-18 – Tolling for Unregistered Businesses or Individuals.**
A proposed new subsection (b)(1) recognizes that individuals and entities required to register under § 6-1-1 or Title 7 ("corporations, associations, and partnerships") may conduct business in Rhode Island without proper registration. The amendment ensures that the statute of limitations for causes of action arising from such business activities is tolled until the entity

becomes duly registered or authorized to transact business in Rhode Island. This provision promotes fairness and accountability: businesses cannot evade liability simply by failing to register, while still providing an incentive for voluntary compliance..

- **R.I. Gen. Laws § 9-1-18 – Voluntary Compliance Incentive.**

A proposed new subsection (b)(2) provides a reasonable and structured incentive for unregistered businesses or individuals to come into voluntary compliance. By allowing the statute of limitations to begin running upon registration or authorization, provided registration occurs before notice of a claim or inquiry, this section encourages compliance while balancing the interests of potential claimants. It also ensures that any cause of action is brought within a reasonable period (three years from registration or the normal limitations period, whichever is later), providing predictability and fairness.

- **R.I. Gen. Laws § 9-1-18 – New Definitions.**

A proposed new subsection (b)(3) clarifies that “person” includes a natural person acting as a sole proprietor required to file under § 6-1-1, and that “written notice” includes electronic mail. These clarifications modernize the statute and ensure it aligns with contemporary business and communication practices.

CONCLUSION

The proposed amendments to H8051 provide critical updates that protect Rhode Island consumer rights while ensuring that business entities cannot evade accountability through noncompliance with registration requirements. The amendments encourage voluntary compliance, provide clarity regarding limitations periods, and promote fairness for both claimants and business operators. For these reasons, New England Property Services Group, LLC strongly supports the passage of H8051 and urge the House Judiciary Committee to support the amendments.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael H. Brady, Esq.
In-House Legal Counsel
New England Property Services Group, LLC