



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Department of Labor and Training

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Daniel J. McKee
Governor
Matthew D. Weldon
Director

February 4, 2026

The Honorable Arthur J. Corvese
Chair, House Committee on Labor
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chair Corvese:

I write today in support of House Bill 7146 An Act Relating to Labor and Labor Relations-Division of Professional Regulation, introduced by Representative Fellela.

This bill provides a thoughtful and practical tool for individuals who have spent their careers serving their communities and are transitioning out of full-time practice. A retirement status license allows these professionals to maintain a formal connection to their profession and to do so without incurring the full cost of an active license they no longer need. For many retirees, this represents a meaningful cost savings while preserving their professional standing.

The bill also creates an easily accessible pathway for individuals who later elect to return from retirement status and renew their active state license. Anyone who wishes to return to full time status must pay the full license fee associated with that license and complete the most recent required continuing education or training requirements. This ensures that any licensee returning to active practice meets current professional standards and public safety expectations.

The Department believes this approach benefits both licensees and the state. It recognizes and honors the service of long-standing professionals, keeps experienced individuals available as a resource to their communities, and maintains appropriate safeguards for licensure and re-entry into practice.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my colleague, Keith Murray, Chief Government Affairs/Policy Officer, keith.murray@dlt.ri.gov or (401) 462-8021.

Sincerely,

Matthew D. Weldon
Director