



Director's Office

One Capitol Hill | Providence, RI 02908 | (401) 222-2280

April 15, 2026

The Honorable Arthur J. Corvese
Chairperson
House Committee on Labor
Rhode Island House of Representatives
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: House Bill No. 7958 -- An Act Relating To Labor And Labor Relations -- Fair Employment Practices

Dear Chairperson Corvese:

Thank you for providing the Department of Administration ("Department") the opportunity to submit comments in response to House Bill No. 7958, which mandates any contract for capital improvements at any healthcare facility adhere to the requirements of chapter 13 of title 37.

The Department is not commenting on the overall merits of the legislation but rather wishes to raise an unintended consequence. This proposed legislation purports to apply requirements related to private healthcare facilities in Title 37 (Public Property and Works), which can lead to confusion in interpretation and implementation. While the Department takes the position that enforcement of the provisions in § 13-7 for private healthcare facilities would not fall upon the Department, the mere reference of Title 37 creates uncertainty. Requirements related to private healthcare facilities would be better placed in a new chapter in Title 23 (Health and Safety), which already has provisions related to licensing of Healthcare Facilities (§ 23-17).

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Webber".

Rebecca Webber
Deputy Director for Performance and Projects

cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Labor
The Honorable Jenni A. Furtado
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House
James DeCastro, Committee Clerk