



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Department of Labor and Training

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Daniel J. McKee
Governor
Matthew D. Weldon
Director

April 14, 2026

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

Dear Chair Corvese:

I write today in regard to House Bill 8331 An Act Relating to Labor and Labor Relations- The Trades Worker Justice and Safety Act, introduced by Representative Morales.

The Department notes the importance of the matters raised in this legislation and thanks the sponsor for addressing them. While the Department does not take a position on the substantive policy measures contained in this bill, I write to inform the Honorable Members of the Committee of the Department's anticipated budgetary and staffing impacts associated with our role in administering many of the provisions of the bill.

Under this legislation, the Department of Labor and Training would assume expanded responsibilities related to the receipt, review, and coordination of complaints concerning workplace conduct, including harassment, discrimination, retaliation, and safety concerns on covered construction worksites. The Department would also be required to support enhanced inspection and compliance efforts, promulgate rules and regulations to implement the act, and coordinate with other state agencies and stakeholders.

The bill further establishes a Construction Worker Safety and Equity Ombudsman within the Department. While intended to operate independently, the Department would be responsible for supporting the administrative infrastructure necessary for the office to function.

Given the scope of these responsibilities, the Department anticipates the need for additional staffing and resources to support increased complaint intake, investigations, compliance monitoring, and program administration. At this time, the Department anticipates the need for at least two full-time equivalent (FTE) positions. The Department's estimated cost associated with these two FTEs, inclusive of space, supplies, and indirect costs, is \$550,000. The anticipated costs for the Construction Worker Safety and Equity Ombudsman would be an additional \$250,000.

The Department remains committed to working collaboratively with the sponsor and members of the Committee to ensure that any responsibilities assigned can be implemented effectively and in a manner that supports both workers and employers.

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

Sincerely,

Matthew D. Weldon
Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'mwd', is positioned below the typed name and title of Matthew D. Weldon.

CC: Honorable Members of the House Committee on Labor
The Honorable David Morales
Nicole McCarty, Esq. Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House