



Director's Office

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

Jonathan Womer, Director

March 12, 2024

The Honorable Stephen M. Casey
Chairperson, House Committee on Municipal Government & Housing
Rhode Island House of Representatives
82 Smith Street, Providence, RI 02903

**Re: House Bill No. 7985 Entitled, An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government --
Department of Administration**

Dear Chairman Casey,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in response to House Bill No. 7985. The bill proposes to “require, by January 1, 2026, the creation of an online, publicly available, comprehensive statewide geographic information system of land related resources to include information from all towns and cities.”

The Department of Administration (Department) applauds Rep. Spears and her House colleagues for proposing this forward-looking legislation, and we write only to highlight certain additional considerations that will ensure successful implementation of these objectives in the future. Aside from these considerations, the Department is in alignment with the intent of this legislation to improve GIS resources.

To that end, in 2021, the Rhode Island Geographic Information System (RIGIS) Executive Committee (RIGIS EC) developed a five-year RIGIS Strategic Management Plan, which delineates six goals to provide a direction for the future development and use of GIS in Rhode Island.

At the same time, a high-level analysis of what would be required to effectuate a similar, comprehensive state Enterprise GIS—including a Geographic Information Officer (GIO) and necessary team—was undertaken by a multi-agency working group in 2021. The Department will continue to review available data, so that we can provide accurate details and estimates to the sponsor and members of the Assembly in future discussions of our shared goal of improving GIS resources.

In sum, the Department would respectfully note that the successful and timely implementation of the proposed changes to fully integrate our 39 cities and towns, in addition to other new GIS system features, may require additional budgetary allocations in FY 2025 and 2026. The Department stands ready to further engage on these details at the sponsor's convenience.



Director's Office

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

Jonathan Womer, Director

Sincerely,


Jonathan Womer
Director of Administration

cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Municipal Government & Housing
Dawn Huntley, Committee Clerk
The Honorable Representatives Spears, Speakman, Carson, Cortvriend, and McEntee
Meredith Brady, Associate Director, Division of Statewide Planning
Nancy Hess, Interdepartmental Program Manager, Division of Statewide Planning