



Department of Administration

One Capitol Hill Providence, RI 02908

May 21, 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 Sub A - Entitled, An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government --
Department of Administration

Dear Chairperson Casey,

Thank you for providing the Department of Administration (Department) the opportunity to provide comments in response to [House Bill No. 7985 Substitute A](#). The amended language allows the Department to prepare a strategy for establishing a full, comprehensive and integrated statewide geographic information system.

Currently, the state does not have the staff capacity or technology infrastructure to implement a full, comprehensive and integrated statewide geographic information system (GIS), both of which are needed to maintain a successful system. Specifically, only 1% of the Division of Statewide Planning's FY24 personnel budget is comprised of general revenue that is not associated with a federal project and match requirement. However, the Department, including the Divisions of Statewide Planning and Enterprise Technology Strategy and Supports, is prepared to evaluate and report how to support the successful implementation and maintenance of such a system.

A comprehensive, statewide GIS has untapped potential for Rhode Island's state agencies, municipalities, and partner entities, and interest in GIS resources is already high. In the first three months of this calendar year, the current Rhode Island GIS Data Clearinghouse had 8,061 total users and 43,206 page views. The Department looks forward to assessing how the state and municipalities could work together to enhance our GIS resources.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Womer". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Jonathan Womer
Director



Department of Administration

One Capitol Hill Providence, RI 02908

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
Nicole McCarty, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House