



**RHODE ISLAND LEAGUE  
OF CITIES AND TOWNS**

*Distinctive Communities  
Powerful Alliance*

March 5, 2026

The Honorable Stephen M. Casey, Chair  
House Municipal Government and Housing  
Rhode Island House of Representatives  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: HOUSE BILL 8007 – AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- SUBDIVISION OF LAND**

Dear Chair Casey and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, we are supportive of this proposal, which would provide that minor subdivisions include single family infill subdivisions and establish procedures for single family infill subdivisions within the subdivision of land chapter of the general laws. We also recommend incorporating feedback from our cities and towns as the bill moves through the legislative process to ensure it reflects local needs and addresses practical considerations on the ground for our members. We will be sure to provide the legislature additional information and suggested input as we receive it.

This legislation also provides clarity and streamlined procedures for minor subdivisions, including single-family infill subdivisions, while maintaining municipal oversight. Specifically, it allows for:

- Minor subdivisions creating nine (9) or fewer buildable lots, and subdivisions of ten (10) or more lots on existing improved public streets;
- Oversized lot subdivisions allowed by right; and
- Single-family infill subdivisions in areas with adequate water and sewer capacity, with limits to a maximum of three (3) new lots. These lots must meet minimum lot size requirements relative to surrounding developed properties and be located on existing improved public streets.

Importantly, House Bill 8007 ensures that newly created lots under these provisions are reviewed through standard municipal subdivision procedures without requiring zoning relief solely because of reduced lot size. It also aligns with existing subdivision review processes (§ 45-23-38, § 45-24-38, § 45-24-46), providing consistency and predictability for municipalities and developers alike.

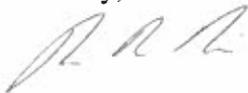
By establishing predictable tax treatment for affordable housing units and clarifying subdivision procedures, this legislation supports the development of housing in Rhode Island that is both attainable for residents and manageable for municipalities.

The bill's provisions aim to encourage the development of additional housing options while maintaining clear standards for lot size, water and sewer capacity, and street access. At the same time, we recognize that implementing these provisions may have implications for municipalities. Local officials will need to review subdivisions under the updated procedures and ensure that the new standards align with municipal planning and infrastructure considerations. Additionally, the tax rate limits for certain new construction may have an impact on municipal revenue.

As this legislation is part of the Speaker's broader housing package, we also look forward to reviewing House Bill 8007 in conjunction with the other measures included in that package with our member municipalities. We remain committed to working collaboratively with the General Assembly, stakeholders, and our local officials to ensure that the various components operate in strong synergy and reflect practical, workable standards for cities and towns. We look forward to keeping the dialogue open as the legislation advances and to working together on any refinements that may further improve practical application at the local level.

Thank you for the opportunity to share the perspective of Rhode Island's municipalities and for your thoughtful consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'R. Rossi', written in dark ink.

Randy R. Rossi  
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House Municipal Government and Housing