



April 7, 2026

The Honorable Stephen Casey
Chair, House Municipal Government and Housing Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Re: House Bill 7778

Dear Chair Casey, First Vice Chair Fogarty, Second Vice Chair Speakman, and Distinguished Committee Members,

I write on behalf of RIHousing in support of House Bill 7778, *An Act Relating to Towns and Cities – Low and Moderate Income Housing*, which strengthens and expands the HousingSearchRI.org database.


Several years ago, the General Assembly directed RIHousing to create a publicly accessible, searchable resource for affordable rental units. RIHousing launched the affordable housing search tool on its HousingSearchRI.com website in 2023. We also require all multi-family developments financed by RIHousing to list their units on the site and have made confirming ongoing participation part of our regular site monitoring process.

However, the current system captures only certain affordable rental units, and there are no statutory requirements for developers to list their units. As a result, many affordable homes, particularly deed-restricted homeownership opportunities, are not publicly posted or searchable by Rhode Islanders. Ensuring prospective homebuyers have access to transparent, comprehensive information about affordable homeownership opportunities is increasingly important in this challenging housing market.

House Bill 7778 addresses these statutory gaps in a few ways. First, it expands the platform to include all housing that meets the definition of low- or moderate-income housing under the State's Low and Moderate Income Housing Act, including deed-restricted homeownership opportunities. Second, it requires all developers of low- or moderate-income housing to list their units on the site. And lastly, it authorizes either RIHousing or the Executive Office of Housing to host and maintain the database, in recognition of the recent changes to the State's housing governance structure.

These improvements will create a more complete statewide inventory of affordable options, increase transparency, and help Rhode Islanders more easily find a home that meets their needs and budget. For these reasons, we respectfully urge your support for House Bill 7778.

Sincerely,



Carol Ventura

Executive Director, RIHousing