



Executive Office of Housing
State of Rhode Island
One Capitol Hill, 3rd Floor
Providence, RI 02908

April 7, 2026

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

Re: H 7778

Dear Chairman Casey:

The Executive Office of Housing (“EOH”) is pleased to submit this letter in support of House Bill 7778, which would add EOH to the list of government offices responsible for maintaining a database of residential units available for rent or sale.

Currently, RIHousing operates this statutorily required database, known to the public as Housing Search RI (<https://www.housingsearchri.org>), which connects Rhode Islanders seeking safe and affordable housing with local landlords and developers. The platform provides free online resources for renters, landlords, and developers. H 7778 proposes amendments to the existing statute that would:

- Expand responsibility for operating the database to include EOH, with the intent that EOH will collaborate with Rhode Island Housing to assume this responsibility going forward;
- Expand the database to include all residential developments that meet the definition of low- or moderate-income housing (LMIH), including homeownership units. Currently, the database is limited to Low-Income Housing Tax Credit developments and subsidized housing developments, as referenced in RIHousing’s resource guide.
- Allow users to identify specific types of affordable housing and receive notifications when units meeting those criteria become available for lease or sale; and
- Require owners of properties qualifying as LMIH to list those properties in the database. For developments completed after January 1, 2027, properties should be listed prior to or concurrently with the opening of the property for lease-up, accepting applications or, in the case of homeownership units, listing units for sale.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and welcome the opportunity to work with the Committee and bill sponsor as this proposal moves forward.

Sincerely,



Deborah J. Goddard
Secretary of Housing

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Municipal Government and Housing Committee
The Honorable Thomas E. Noret
Nicole McCarty, Esquire, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy