

March 25, 2026

The Honorable Mary Ann Shallcross Smith
Chair, House Small Business Committee
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chair Shallcross Smith and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of our members across Rhode Island's hospitality industry, I write to respectfully oppose H 7975.


Our industry takes the issue of drink tampering extremely seriously. The safety and well-being of our guests and employees is a top priority, and we strongly support efforts to prevent incidents commonly referred to as "roofing." Restaurants, bars, and hospitality venues already invest significant time and resources into staff training, responsible service practices, and maintaining safe environments for patrons. Every bartender, server, host, and door staff in Rhode Island must complete safe alcohol service training which includes steps to prevent these incidents.

While well-intentioned, H 7975 raises several practical and operational concerns that we believe warrant reconsideration. While intended to raise awareness, the mandated signage could have unintended consequences. For example, messaging such as "Don't get roofied!" may create alarm among patrons and inadvertently suggest that such incidents are widespread within licensed establishments, which does not reflect the reality of the vast majority of safe and responsibly operated venues in Rhode Island.

Second, the bill creates an operational burden on already strained businesses. Staff would need to manage inventory, field requests, and explain availability to customers during peak service times. Even with the ability to charge a fee, this adds complexity to front-of-house operations without clear evidence that it will meaningfully improve safety outcomes.

We greatly appreciate the efforts to keep our guests safe and will continue to prioritize their well-being through responsible service, staff training, and proactive safety practices. We respectfully urge the Committee to oppose H 7975 in its current form. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Ryan Moot
Manager of Government Affairs
RI Hospitality Association

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