



State of Rhode Island

Department of State | Office of the Secretary of State

Nellie M. Gorbea, *Secretary of State*

January 27th, 2022

The Honorable Evan P. Shanley, Chair
House Committee on State Government & Elections
82 Smith Street, Providence RI 02903

Re: H6622: An Act Relating to Elections – Primary Elections

Chair Shanley and members of the Committee:

The Department of State currently has no official position on this legislation as drafted.

Comprehensive changes to the way we conduct elections require ample time to educate voters and local boards of canvassers. We thank Rep. Corvese for this consideration by adding a January 2024 effective date.

Currently, we have questions regarding how this legislation would affect independent candidates and federal elections among others. We look forward to working directly with the sponsor on these issues.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at (401) 222-4293 or aegardner@sos.ri.gov.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Aaron M. Easter Gardner, JD

Director of Legislative Affairs, Rhode Island Department of State