



Angélica Infante-Green
Commissioner

State of Rhode Island
DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
Shepard Building
255 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

February 7, 2023

Representative Evan Shanley
Chair, House Government and Elections
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

RE: Opposition to Bill H5022

Dear Chairman Shanley:

The Rhode Island Department of Education opposes Bill H5022. The bill would allow school committees to add agenda items for discussion purposes after the agenda, in accordance with state law, has been published by the Secretary of State and on the district website.

RIDE believes that a school committee agenda must be transparent and abide by the current standard articulated by law. Citizens deserve a minimum of 48 hours of notice to ensure that the public is aware of important deliberations by the committee and have the opportunity to provide testimony that will help inform any committee decisions deriving from the item in question. If the school committee discusses items not on the agenda, there is a chance that important public input might be lost. A healthy dialogue with items on an agenda that have been posted is important for public bodies to follow.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,

Angélica Infante-Green
Commissioner of Education

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