



Director's Office

One Capitol Hill | Providence, RI 02908 | (401) 222-2280
James E. Thorsen, Director

February 14, 2023

The Honorable Representative Evan P. Shanley
Chairperson
House Committee on State Government & Elections
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

**RE: H-5306 – AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT --
ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES**

Dear Chairperson Shanley:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above-mentioned legislation.

The Rhode Island Department of Administration (“Department”) has concerns regarding the broadness and vagueness of the proposed legislation. Passage of this legislation in its current form would have unintended consequences and would undermine the existing administrative hearing process in State government. Additionally, allowing for the disqualification of hearing officers due to a lack of technical expertise may undermine principles of impartiality required for the individuals serving in this role. Finally, adding additional formality to the administrative hearing process would impede the timely progression of the administrative hearing process. For these reasons, the Department does not support this legislation.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to offer comments on the proposed legislation and respectfully requests these concerns be considered. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James Thorsen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

James Thorsen
Director

cc: The Honorable Representative David Place
The Honorable Members of the House Committee on State Government & Elections
Nicole McCarty, Chief Legal Counsel, Speaker's Office