



State of Rhode Island

Department of State | Office of the Secretary of State

Gregg M. Amore, *Secretary of State*

January 23, 2024

Honorable Evan P. Shanley, Chair  
House Committee on State Government and Elections

RE: H7116 An Act Relating to Elections – Primaries for Election of Delegates to National Conventions and for Presidential Preference

Dear Chair Shanley,

I write this letter with concerns regarding H7116, legislation that will amend the timeline for signature collection and for local boards to validate nomination papers and will reduce the number of signatures required for delegate candidates from 150 to 50.

The Department of State supports reducing the signature totals for delegates due to delegate candidates only having five days to collect signatures. However, our Office would like to make this committee aware that the declaration of candidacy period for delegate candidates is next week from January 31<sup>st</sup> to February 1<sup>st</sup>, which means that delegate candidates will begin collecting signatures on Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Therefore, although we support the concept of reducing the number of signatures for delegate candidates, it is important to note this process for delegates starts next week.

Nevertheless, we are happy to work with Representative Perez and this Committee on suggested amendments to this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Michelle Arias, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, at [marias@sos.ri.gov](mailto:marias@sos.ri.gov).

Sincerely,

Gregg M. Amore  
Secretary of State

cc: Honorable Members of the House Committee on State Government and Elections  
Honorable Ramon Perez