



State of Rhode Island

Department of State | Office of the Secretary of State

Gregg M. Amore, Secretary of State

February 27, 2025

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

RE: H5538 – An Act Relating to Elections – Residence of Individuals in Government Custody Act

Dear Chair Shanley,

I write in support of House Bill 5538, legislation that will require the Division of Statewide Planning to use the actual addresses of persons in government custody for redistricting purposes.

We believe the Division of Statewide Planning under the Rhode Island Department of Administration is the entity best suited to handle the analysis and reporting roles prescribed in this bill. The DOA planning staff coordinates with the Rhode Island Geographic Information System (RIGIS) and serves as the RI Census Data Center, which is in partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau, and, therefore, has the expertise and capacity to execute tasks related to geocoding and updating census data as outlined in this legislation.

Over the past two years, our office has worked with Representative Cruz, Common Cause, the ACLU, and the Prison Policy Initiative to draft this legislation. I urge this Committee and the full House to support this legislation, as it will ensure those in government custody are counted at their residence address, not a correctional facility, for redistricting purposes.

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.

Sincerely,

Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State

cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on State Government and Elections
The Honorable Cherie Cruz