



Division of Purchases

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Jay Hauser, State Purchasing Agent

March 6, 2025

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

RE: House Bill No. 5723 – State-Owned and Operated Printing Facilities Preference Act

Dear Chairperson Shanley:

Thank you for providing the Division of Purchases within the Department of Administration the opportunity to submit comments regarding House Bill No. 5723, which creates a State-Owned and Operated Printing Facilities Preference and requires printing of eligible publications from State entities to be facilitated by and through State-owned print shops.

The State of Rhode Island maintains a dedicated Master Price Agreement (“MPA”) for printing services that provides a qualified list of vendors capable of both large- and small-scale print jobs, as well as on-demand digital and physical printing services. The MPA is comprised of ten vendors who are regularly engaged by State and public entities to meet various levels of need, several of which are incorporated in Rhode Island and/or maintain a local, physical presence:

- DS Graphics, Inc.
- Graphic Image, Inc.
- Makeservi Craft & Print, LLC
- Meridian Printing, Inc.
- Regine Printing Co., Inc.
- RR Donnelley & Sons Company
- Sheahan Printing Corporation
- Signature Printing, Inc.
- Standard Modern Company, Inc.
- Wing Press Incorporated

Since the establishment of the current version of MPA-204 in May 2023, the ten vendors have collectively remitted just over \$1.4M worth of services to executive State agencies alone, representing 638 individual project engagements (or “purchase orders”). These figures do not include utilization by quasi-state agencies or municipalities, but these entities are also able to use the MPA. In recognition of the historically high-volume usage of this MPA, the MPA itself is structured as an “open enrollment” opportunity whereby new vendors can apply to be an MPA vendor throughout the base contract term.

Hosting a dedicated MPA to remit digital and hard copy printing services for State agencies is critical to ensuring that those agencies can meet related needs quickly, efficiently, and in a fiscally responsible manner; the market made available through the MPA further strengthens the ability of agencies to negotiate competitive pricing and ensure fair value for all related services. This is of particular importance for agencies with specialized or time-sensitive requests.

The Division appreciates the opportunity to share comments pertaining to this legislation with the Committee. If there are any related questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my office at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Amanda M. Rivers

Digitally signed by Amanda M.
Rivers
Date: 2025.03.06 14:27:53 -05'00'

Jay Hauser

Director, Division of Purchases

cc:

The Honorable Members of the House Committee on State Government & Elections
The Honorable Kathleen Fogarty
Nicole McCarty, Esq. Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House
Steven Sepe, Clerk