



RI Department of Health
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TTY: 771
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March 6, 2025

The Honorable Evan P. Shanley, Chair
House Committee on State Government and Elections
State House
82 Smith St.
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H 5723 – An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government – State-Owned and Operated Printing Facilities Preference Act

Dear Chair Shanley:

Please accept this letter of concern regarding H 5723, legislation that would require any State agency, State institution of higher education, and quasi-public agency that engages in printing more than 50 copies of a contract, publication, brochure, notice, or promotional material, to use a State-owned or operated print shop capable of processing the materials. This act would take effect upon passage.

The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) operates a State-owned print shop which is well utilized and is currently used by multiple State agencies to print large volumes of materials designed for internal and external audiences. The benefits of using RIDOH's Print Shop include the ability to print emergency requests in an almost real-time capacity and to complete printing requests without having to secure a purchase order (PO). However, there are limitations on the printing and finishing services RIDOH's Print Shop can provide. We can provide black and white or color printing up to a maximum size of 12" x 18" paper and can provide basic finishing services, including collating, stapling, folding, cutting, padding, and limited comb-binding. We cannot provide finished projects with bleeds (color goes all the way to the edge of the page), printing on materials other than paper, or more sophisticated finishing services such as lamination, varnishing, embossing, or die cutting.

While RIDOH's Print Shop currently provides some printing services for other State agencies, we anticipate that these occasional requests do not represent the full volume and breadth of printing needs. Should this legislation be enacted, RIDOH expects a significant increase in volume and complexity of printing requests. To meet this increased demand, RIDOH would need additional printing equipment that can handle a larger volume of printing, additional specialty equipment to provide more sophisticated finishing services, and at minimum, two new FTEs to manage and fulfill printing requests, order supplies, and maintain equipment.

Currently, when customers' printing needs exceed the ability (volume or technical services required) of its print shop, RIDOH refers customers to vendors listed on the Master Price Agreements (MPA) for offset printing. Requiring RIDOH and other State agencies to only use State-owned print shops will prevent State agencies from being able to provide the public with critically important public health and/or educational materials in a timely and efficient manner.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jerome M. Larkin" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jerome M. Larkin, MD
Director

CC: The Honorable Kathleen A. Fogarty
The Honorable Members of the House Committee on State Government & Elections
Nicole McCarty, Chief Legal Counsel
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy