



**BARRINGTON**  
RHODE ISLAND

Office of the Town Clerk  
Barrington Town Hall | 283 County Road | Barrington, RI 02806  
(401) 247-1900, ext. 1 | mdesisto@barrington.ri.gov

March 15, 2025

The Honorable Members of the House Committee on State Government and Elections  
82 Smith St.  
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Support for H-5514 (Ballot Printing Efficiency)

Dear Chairman, Shanley and Hon. Members of the House State Government and Elections Committee:

I am writing to request the support of H-5514, an act that would allow for significant cost savings and reallocation of resources by simply modifying two words, "Mail Voter," on the printed election ballots at early voting. This bill is supported by the RI Town and City Clerks' Association, RI Board of Elections, RI League of Cities and Towns, and Secretary of State Gregg M. Amore.

Voters are often confused during early voting as to why "Mail Voter" appears on their early voting ballots, which they are casting in-person into a vote tabulator at an early voting polling place. What's worse, however, is that on Election Day, leftover ballots from early voting – ostensibly identical to those used at the polling locations – cannot be used in an emergency or when ballot stocks at the polls run low, because of the slight variation at the top of the ballot. This is simply an oversight, and a leftover, archaic ballot printing practice that predates early voting – one which results in overprinting of hundreds of thousands of excess ballots out of legal necessity.

This simple bill updates the statute to allow for greater efficiency for the Secretary of State in printing ballots. We support this as it will free up resources that cities and towns can be afforded to support our own election operations, including ensuring we have sufficient ballot stocks available for all voters on Election Day.

If you have any questions on this legislation, please contact Nick Lima, Elections Committee Chair for the Rhode Island Town and City Clerks' Association at 401-780-3128, or via email at [nlima@cranstonri.gov](mailto:nlima@cranstonri.gov). We appreciate your consideration and support for this legislation.

Very truly yours,

Meredith J. DeSisto, CMC  
Barrington Town Clerk

Cc: Nick Lima, elections Committee Chair for RITCCA