



State of Rhode Island

Department of State | Office of the Secretary of State

Gregg M. Amore, Secretary of State

April 22, 2025

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

RE: In support of H5715 – An Act Relating to Public Offices and Employees – Retirement System - Administration

Dear Chair Shanley,

I write this letter in support of House Bill 5715, legislation that would require the Retirement Board of the Employees' Retirement System (ERSRI) to publicly stream meetings and post video recordings on the Board's website.

As Secretary of State, one of my top priorities has been to make government more accessible and transparent for all Rhode Islanders. As the State entity that maintains the Open Meetings database and provides Rhode Islanders with important information and tools on how to interact with their government, we believe that what is proposed in House Bill 5715 enhances these values of access and transparency.

My colleague Treasurer Diossa has made meeting livestreams and postings of meeting video recordings available since February of this year. All Retirement Board meetings and associated archival postings are on YouTube and under the "Quick Links" section of ERSRI's website. Treasurer Diossa understands the relevance and importance of transparency and access to information, and his office's efforts in this area should be commended.

Therefore, I urge this committee to support House Bill 5715, as it will codify an open government best practice that has already been implemented, benefiting Rhode Islanders and enhancing the public's confidence in our governmental institutions.

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 & Elections
The Honorable Patricia A. Serpa

State House, Room 218, Providence, RI 02903

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