



Director's Office

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Jonathan Womer, Director

January 27, 2026

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

Re: House Bill 7155 – An Act Relating To State Affairs And Government -- Departments Of State Government

Dear Chairperson Shanley,

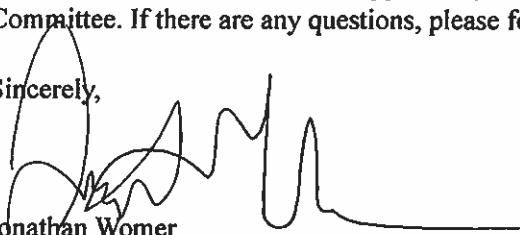
Thank you for providing the Department of Administration (the “Department”) the opportunity to submit our concerns in response to House Bill No. 7155, which provides that testimony submitted on behalf of state departments, agencies, boards or commissions would not be considered official unless authorized by the governor.

Committee hearings are a core component of the legislative process, allowing any individual or organization to express their views and share valuable feedback on proposed legislation. Requiring state agencies to have written certification from the governor in order to have their testimony be considered undermines this process and stifles agency voices.

State agencies provide crucial subject matter expertise, particularly regarding program implementation, which can aid legislative decision making. Given that there are thousands of bills heard each legislative session, some of which are complex and require extended review time to provide a thorough and thoughtful response, the Department is concerned that this additional approval step will act as a bottleneck to testimony submission, possibly delaying agency testimony beyond the scheduled hearing time.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to share our concerns over this legislation with the Committee. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact my office at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Womer
Director, Department of Administration

cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on State Government and Elections
The Honorable David J. Place
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House
Steven Sepe, Committee Clerk