



State of Rhode Island

Department of State | Office of the Secretary of State

Gregg M. Amore, Secretary of State

January 27, 2026

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

RE: House Bill 7307 – An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government – Rhode Island Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act

Dear Chair Shanley,

I write this letter in opposition to House Bill 7307, legislation that would alter the rulemaking process for public bodies by requiring the General Assembly's approval for the promulgation of rules and regulations.

As Secretary of State, my top priority has been making government more accessible and transparent for all Rhode Islanders. The State Archives and Public Records Administration, Administrative Records Office, of the Department of State, is indispensable to uphold transparency in government—it safeguards Rhode Island's historical assets and records, both permanent and temporary, which document daily government operations.

One of the main tools the State Archives and Public Records Administration oversees and maintains is the Rhode Island Code of Regulations (RICR), an online database of rules and regulations promulgated by public bodies with authority granted by the General Assembly and authorized by statute to make and enforce rules. These public bodies file within the RICR to begin the promulgation process once content has been reviewed and finalized by their subject-matter experts and the Office of Regulatory Reform.

The proposed legislation designates our office as an intermediary with the legislature and mandates that we review the content of proposed regulations. This is unfeasible and outside the scope of the Administrative Records Office's functions, as we assist public bodies in a ministerial capacity. Therefore, we do not advise on the content, legality, or applicability of a public body's regulations. Currently, this is the function of the Office of Management and Budget and the Office of Regulatory Reform at the Department of Administration.

In addition, if this legislation were to pass, the Department of State would need to make significant changes to the RICR, an already complex online system. Implementing those changes would require significant time and resources for our office. Should the House decide to advance this legislation, we ask that you provide the Department of State with a substantial appropriation to update and rebuild the RICR's capacity.

I urge this committee to consider our concerns on House Bill 7307.

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 Paul M. Santucci

State House, Room 218, Providence, RI 02903

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