



State of Rhode Island
COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
180 Westminister Street, Providence, RI 02903 – Tel. 401-222-2661

TESTIMONY

BILL NO.: 2026 H 7668
BILL TITLE: Act Relating to Elections – Residence of Individuals in Government Custody Act
PRIMARY SPONSORS: Representative Cruz
COMMITTEE: House Committee on State Government & Elections
HEARING DATE: March 26, 2026

The Rhode Island Commission for Human Rights (“Commission”) **supports** this bill.

The Commission is the state’s primary antidiscrimination law enforcement agency charged with investigating allegations of discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, credit and delivery of services. Among the allegations investigated by the Commission are those of race, ancestral origin, age and disability discrimination in employment and housing. **The Commission believes that passage of this bill would make redistricting more equitable.**

This bill would require that the state use the actual residence of people in government custody for redistricting purposes.

The Commission asks that you join the many other states that have made this change, which is supported by many community groups. The current system has a negative effect on low-income communities and communities with a high percentage of minority voters.

The Commission urges you to support this bill.

Commission contact: Commissioner Cynthia Hiatt, 222-7563