

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND



Department of Corrections

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

March 26, 2026

Re: H7668 – Relating to Elections -- Residence of Individuals in Government Custody Act

Dear Chairperson Shanley:

This evening the House State Government and Elections Committee will consider House Bill #7668. This bill would require that the state use the actual residences of persons in government custody for redistricting purposes with such information being collected by the Rhode Island Department of Corrections (RIDOC).

The information collected by those incarcerated at the Adult Correctional Institutions (ACI) is self-reported, which affords those entering RIDOC's custody the opportunity to factually share the information, decline to share their personal information or share information that is false. When an individual arrives at the Intake Service Center and goes through the intake process, the Department proactively collects an array of information, including but not limited to race, nativity, ethnicity, residential address, level of education, religion, and employment status. While the Department does not have the ability to independently verify if the address shared is consistent with the address an individual may have used when registering to vote, it remains ready to share this self-reported information as directed.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

Sincerely,

Wayne T. Salisbury Jr.
Director

cc: Honorable Members of the House State Government and Elections Committee
The Honorable Cherie L. Cruz
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House