



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND JUDICIARY

SUPREME COURT  
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

Licht Judicial Complex  
250 Benefit Street  
Providence, RI 02903

March 31, 2026

**Via Electronic Mail ([HouseStateGovernmentandElections@rilegislature.gov](mailto:HouseStateGovernmentandElections@rilegislature.gov))**

Chair Evan P. Shanley  
House Committee on State Government & Elections  
Rhode Island General Assembly  
Rhode Island State House  
House Lounge  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

**Re: House Bill #7154: An Act Relating to Public Records – Access to Public Records**

Dear Chair Shanley:

I write on behalf of the Rhode Island Judiciary to express our support for House Bill #7154, scheduled to be heard this evening before the House Committee on Judiciary. If enacted, this bill would amend R.I. Gen. Laws § 38-2-2(4)(A)(I)(b) of the Access to Public Records Act (“APRA”) to exempt from public disclosure the city or town of residence of judicial officers within the Rhode Island unified judicial system. If enacted, this legislation would be an important step toward strengthening the safety and security of Rhode Island’s justices, judges, and magistrates.

In recent years, threats and violence against judicial officers have increased significantly. In fiscal year 2025, the U.S. Marshals Service recorded 564 threats against 396 federal judges, with the number for fiscal year 2026 already at 241 threats against 202 federal judges. Tragically, there have been numerous targeted attacks against judicial officers nationwide that have led to the deaths of judicial officers and immediate family. This national increase in threats and violence targeting judges is unfortunately also affecting Rhode Island’s judicial officers. Members of the Rhode Island Judiciary have been served by pro se litigants at their homes and received threatening mail. A Rhode Island judge had pictures of his home posted on the internet, along with threats to kill him, by an individual who appeared before him. Members of the Rhode Island Judiciary are receiving an unprecedented number of disturbing, harassing, and threatening emails from disgruntled litigants.

The Judiciary is grateful for the significant steps the General Assembly has taken towards increasing judicial officers’ safety and security with the 2025 passage of the Judicial Security Act, which allows a judicial officer to request that their personal information be marked as confidential and not publicly posted by certain private and government entities. Under the APRA, however,

the city or town of residence for judicial officers is still designated as public information. This incongruity poses a great risk to judicial officers.

The General Assembly passed a similar APRA amendment in 2021 to exempt from public disclosure the city or town of residence of peace officers. House Bill #7154 would add justices, judges, and magistrates of the Rhode Island Judiciary to this APRA exemption, providing an additional measure of protection for judicial officers.

Thank you for the opportunity to express the Judiciary's support for this bill.

Sincerely,

Chrisanne Wyrzykowski  
General Counsel