

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND



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March 31, 2026

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

RE: 2026 — H 8297 — An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government – Administrative Procedures

Dear Chair Shanley:

I write this letter in support of H 8297, legislation that will amend the refiling process for rules and regulations under the Administrative Procedures Act by simplifying it to an online attestation that confirms the rules and regulations remain active and effective.

At BHDDH, we use the Department of State Rhode Island Code of Regulations (RICR) filing system as required in R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-4.

With this bill, our agency will have the ability to succinctly communicate to the public all active rules, as of the day of publishing, in a single list rather than requiring that each rule be searched, selected, and viewed individually by a constituent. This will also remove public confusion caused by re-promulgating all individual regulations without changes.

If this legislation does not pass, BHDDH will have to re-file all our rules, which will create significant confusion for the public and disrupt access to clear and consistent information regarding our regulations.

Overall, I urge this Committee and the full House to support H 8297, as this initiative will improve government efficiency by substantially reducing the time required to complete refile activity and streamlining the statutory compliance process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Leclerc".

Richard Leclerc
Director

cc: Honorable Members of the House Committee on State Government and Elections
Honorable Earl A. Read, III

Nicole McCarty, Esquire, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy