



**Department of Business Regulation  
Office of the Director**

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March 31, 2026

The Honorable Evan P. Shanley  
Chairperson, House Committee on State Government and Elections  
State House  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

RE: H 8297 – AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT –  
ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

Dear Chair Shanley:

I am writing on behalf of the Department of Business Regulation (DBR) in support of H8297. This bill proposed by the Secretary of State simplifies the refiling requirements for regulations.

The Department is responsible for more than 140 regulations for its various divisions, boards and commissions. Since the codification of all state regulations into the Rhode Island Code of Regulations (RICR) in 2018, the refiling process is no longer necessary. The amendments proposed in this bill would simplify the refiling process by transforming it into an agency certification process. This benefits both Department staff and Department of State staff by reducing the administrative resources needed for refiling and benefits the public by eliminating the need to change the effective date for all regulations upon refiling. The refiling effective dates (most recently January 2, 2022) are confusing and make it difficult for Department staff and members of the public to find the most recent substantive rulemaking records in the RICR database for a particular regulation.

We would be happy to meet with the Committee and/or sponsors to discuss further streamlining and efficiencies. Please do not hesitate to contact me at [Elizabeth.dwyer@dbr.ri.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.dwyer@dbr.ri.gov) or 401.462.9615 (office) or 401.578.6653 (mobile) with any questions or for additional information.

Thank you for your consideration of our position on this proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Kelleher Dwyer, Esq.  
Director, Department of Business Regulation

cc: Honorable Members of the House Committee on State Government and Elections  
Honorable Earl A. Read, III  
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House