



Tuesday, March 31, 2026

The Honorable Evan P. Shanley
Chairman, House Committee on State Government & Elections
Rhode Island House of Representatives
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: In support of H8297 – An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government – Administrative Procedures

Dear Chairman Shanley,

I write this letter in support of House Bill 8297 – An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government – Administrative Procedures. This legislation would 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 the Rhode Island Cannabis Control Commission, we file five (5) rules that are continually subject to revision and amendment given the constantly evolving nature of the cannabis and hemp industries, and 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, the Rhode Island Cannabis Control Commission will have to re-file all five rules, which we estimated will add fifteen (15) or more hours of unnecessary and burdensome administrative work.

Overall, I urge this Committee and the full House to support House Bill 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,

Michelle A. Reddish, MS, MPH
Cannabis Office Administrator

cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on State Government & Elections
The Honorable Earl Read
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy

Cannabis Control Commission 560 Jefferson Boulevard Warwick, RI 02886 ccinquiry@ccc.ri.gov