



RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
235 Promenade Street, Room 425
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

March 31, 2026

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

Re: H 8297 An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government – Administrative Procedures

Dear Chairman Shanley,

Thank you for providing the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) the opportunity to comment on H 8297, which would amend the refiling process for rules and regulations under the Administrative Procedures Act. DEM supports this legislation.

In 2025, DEM promulgated 34 regulations and used the Department of State Rhode Island Code of Regulations (RICR) filing system as required in R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-4. H 8297 would provide DEM with 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. This will also remove public confusion by re-promulgating all individual regulations without changes. We urge the General Assembly to move forward with this important legislation.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer comments on this legislation and would be pleased to make ourselves available as needed. For further information, please contact Ryan Mulcahey, DEM Director of Legislative Affairs, at ryan.mulcahey@dem.ri.gov should you have any additional questions or wish to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Terrence Gray, P.E.
Director

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