



We Make Rhode Island Happen

AFSCME Rhode Island Council 94

American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO

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Dear House State Government & Elections Committee Member,

RI Council, 94 AFSCME requests an amendment to H-7674, which would create a framework for Public Private Partnerships.

Public Private Partnerships (P3s) are an alternative finance mechanism which allows a state to enter a contract with a private corporation to build and then operate a public structure/facility such as a road, bridge, power plant, University/College Dorm etc.

AFSCME has routinely objected to the use of P3s because they avoid public scrutiny/voter approval required by the ballot question/bonding process and can be a back door for privatization of public services.

However, Council 94 has recently engaged in successful negotiations with URI to utilize a Public Private Partnership to construct a new dorm.

Council 94 appreciates that H-7674 includes language that a P3 must comply with chapter 148 of title 42 (“privatization of state services”), chapter 149 of title 42 (“state expenditures for non-state employee services”), in addition to any/all provisions in an applicable collective bargaining agreement.

Council 94 respectfully requests an amendment to H-7674 that after a P3 becomes operational, they are subject to chapter 2.3 of Title 37 “Government Oversight and Fiscal Accountability Review Act” to ensure that the contract, contract costs, and positions employed are a matter of public record to ensure transparency and accountability.

In closing, we respectfully request an amendment to H-7674.

Sincerely,

**Michael McDonald
President**

**James A. Cenerini
Legislative Affairs/Political Action Coordinator**