



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND JUDICIARY

SUPREME COURT
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

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Providence, RI 02903

April 28, 2026

Via Electronic Mail (Slegislation@rilegislature.gov)

Chair Robert Britto
Senate Committee on Commerce
Rhode Island General Assembly
Rhode Island State House
Room 212
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Re: Senate Bill No. 3212: An Act Relating to Uniform Commercial Code – Secured Transactions

Dear Chair Britto:

I write on behalf of the Rhode Island Judiciary to express the Judiciary's support for Senate Bill No. 3212, scheduled to be heard this evening before the Senate Committee on Commerce. The Secretary of State's proposed legislation would amend existing law and add new provisions to address the filing of fraudulent Uniform Commercial Code ("UCC") financing statements that falsely identify an individual as a debtor with the intent to harass that individual. The proposed legislation also addresses deceptive solicitations sent to businesses and the unauthorized formation of and reporting on an entity.

The proposed legislation would empower the Secretary of State's Office ("Office") to proactively refuse to accept a UCC financing statement where it reasonably believes the record was filed with the intent to harass or defraud the individual identified as a debtor and the Office believes the record is materially false and/or asserts a claim against a government officer or employee in the performance of his or her official duties. The proposed legislation also creates a process whereby an individual falsely identified as a debtor in an already-filed fraudulent financing statement can inform the Office, which can then terminate the false filing.

Senate Bill No. 3212 would address a problem faced by members of the Judiciary. Unsatisfied litigants and defendants knowingly file false financing statements against judicial officers to harass, threaten, and retaliate against them for actions performed in their official capacity. This tactic is on the rise and in recent years the Judiciary has had to engage the Office of Attorney General to file suit to remove these fraudulent liens filed against judicial officers. *See State of Rhode Island Department of Human Services, et al. v. Walker, et al.*, PC-2026-01180; *State of Rhode Island, et al. v. Jeter, et al.* PM-2020-07918. These present just a few examples of

the increase in false lien filings against members of the Judiciary. The proposed legislation would be a significant step towards addressing this issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to express the Judiciary's support for this bill.

Sincerely,



Chrisanne Wyrzykowski

General Counsel

Rhode Island Supreme Court