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TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO H-7127 ARTICLE 3, SECTION 3. - GREEN BUILDINGS ACT TRANSFER AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE STATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2027 (LC4134/1)

Dear Chairperson DiPalma and the esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Finance:

I am here today representing myself, the U.S. Green Building Council Rhode Island, and the firm of FILARSKI/ARCHITECTURE+PLANNING+RESEARCH **in OPPOSITION TO H-7127 ARTICLE 3, SECTION 3. - GREEN BUILDINGS ACT TRANSFER.**

My name is Kenneth J. Filarski. I am the founder and owner of **FILARSKI/ARCHITECTURE+PLANNING+RESEARCH**, a business that is proud to be in Rhode Island. I Chair the U.S. Green Building Council representing over 400 LEED Accredited Professionals. Also I Chair the Rhode Island Green Buildings Advisory Committee, established under RIGL 37-24, which endorsed a draft to amend The Green Buildings Act (GBA) that is embodied in the following Senate legislation, and likewise in the companion House legislation.

Senate Bill No. [2765](#)

BY DiPalma, Gallo, Lauria, DiMario, LaMountain

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS -- THE GREEN BUILDINGS ACT (Creates the green buildings act commission to consist of 17 members, responsible for the implementation of the green buildings act.)

{LC5539/1}

03/04/2026 Introduced, referred to Senate Commerce

03/06/2026 [Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration](#) (03/10/2026)

03/10/2026 Committee recommended measure be held for further study

House Bill No. [7739](#)

BY Cortvriend, McGaw, Handy, Carson, Boylan, Bennett, Kazarian

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS -- THE GREEN BUILDINGS ACT (Creates the green buildings act commission to consist of 17 members, responsible for the implementation of the green buildings act.)

{LC4093/1}

02/12/2026 Introduced, referred to House Environment and Natural Resources

03/06/2026 [Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration](#) (03/11/2026)

03/11/2026 Committee recommended measure be held for further study

It is appreciated that the Governor has submitted this legislation as part of the budget. This budget article identifies the transfer of the Green Buildings Act and the Green Buildings Advisory Committee from the Department of Administration to the Office of the State Building Code Commissioner, and identifies a budget allocation for commissioning a report.

However this legislation does not address the statutory actions that are necessary to implement The Green Buildings Act. S-2765 and H-7739 are more comprehensive and holistic with respect to amending The Green Buildings Act.

There is general agreement with the transfer to the Office of the State Building Code Commissioner under Section 3, 37-24-3 (2), however S-2765 and H-7739 provide greater specificity as to that transfer.

With respect to Section 3, 37-24-59 (a), the Department of Administration has had Rules and Regulations, and other matters submitted to them by the Green Buildings Advisory Committee since the beginning of 2024, and has not acted on them. As recently as the summer of 2025 the Department of Administration (DOA) stated that due to the fact that the Office of Energy Resources (OER) was no longer affiliated with DOA, the DOA did not have the staff capacity to promulgate the updated Rules and Regulations for The Green Buildings Act (GBA). Further DOA has not complied with the current Rules and Regulations of the GBA. Stating that now promulgating those Rules and Regulations will take place is questionable.

With respect to Section 3, 37-24-5 (k), the DOA states that they will commission a "report to analyze the costs and/or benefits of LEED certification compared to equivalent standards. This includes but is not limited to, the impact of obtaining formal LEED certification on project budget and timeline."

The above is ironic in that the DOA has not submitted any projects to be in compliance with The Green Buildings Act, nor have they submitted any requests to the Green Buildings Advisory Committee for project exceptions to The Green Buildings Act. For DOA to commission a report on LEED certification, based on the DOA lack of performance and compliance with The Green Buildings Act is questionable.

At the House Finance Committee on this budget article it was stated that \$50,000 is identified for this report cited above. The request is that the \$50,000 be repurposed to the Green Buildings Advisory Committee to support education and outreach to State departments, agencies, and municipalities for the purpose of providing real and factual information and guidance as to the economic, energy, and human benefits of implementing The Green Buildings Act.

I humbly and respectfully request the Senate Finance Committee rejects the passage of **H-7127 ARTICLE 3, SECTION 3. - GREEN BUILDINGS ACT TRANSFER.**

Further I urge the passage of S-2765 and H-7739 to properly address what is necessary to implement The Green Buildings Act, RIGL 37-24.

Sincerely,



Kenneth J. Filarski FAIA, LEED FELLOW, LEED AP BD+C, SITES AP, AICP, CFM, SAP+AEER, NCARB
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LAURENTIA Bioregion

Chair, State of Rhode Island Green Buildings Advisory Committee
Chair, U.S. Green Building Council Rhode Island

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creating a working landscape of

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directed toward social responsibility and stewardship, lifelong learning,
sustainable and renewable environments, appropriate technology and economics,
in our urban, rural, coastal, and corporate communities