



Director's Office

One Capitol Hill Providence, RI 02908 (401) 222-2280

May 12, 2026

The Honorable Louis P. DiPalma
Chair
Senate Committee on Finance
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Senate Bill No. 2445 – An Act Relating to Public Property and Works – State Purchases

Dear Chair DiPalma,

Thank you for providing the Rhode Island Department of Administration (“Department”) with the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill No. 2445.

As written, this legislation could greatly reduce the State’s flexibility to procure the appropriate Information Technology (“IT”) solutions needed to address business requirements. Specifically, the terms “hardware” and “software” are undefined, which renders an unlimited interpretation, making the bill overly broad. As a result, this bill would restrict our ability to contract with vendors whose business models require strategic partnerships with specific software or hardware solutions. In the fast-evolving world of Software as a Service (SaaS) and artificial intelligence solutions this could put the state at a disadvantage for competing on price or business requirements. This legislation could also potentially force unplanned and improperly sequenced investments in IT systems modernization because the requirements of the legislation would apply to contracts as they expire and force us into different products.

The Department supports flexibility for IT license transfers, and while this legislation may be well intentioned, placing restrictions on the State’s ability to contract and be agile in IT procurements is not in the State’s best interest.

Please feel free to reach out to my team for any additional feedback.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Tardiff".

Brian Tardiff
Chief Digital Officer

Jay Hauser
State Purchasing Agent

cc: The Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Finance
Kristen Silvia, Deputy Chief of Staff and Director of Legislation
Jamie Plume, Committee Clerk