



Executive Office of Housing
State of Rhode Island
One Capitol Hill, 3rd Floor
Providence, RI 02908

April 9, 2026

The Honorable Senator Jacob Bissaillon, Chair
Senate Housing and Municipal Government Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Re: S 2584

Dear Chairman Bissaillon:

The Executive Office of Housing (“EOH”) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on S 2584, which aims to increase the number of accessible units in Rhode Island, however, we respectfully submit this letter of concern.

EOH supports exploring additional ways to incorporate accessible design requirements into projects that receive state funding. Currently, if a new construction or a substantial rehabilitation includes five or more units, the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (“UFAS”) requires at least 5% of the units (or at least one unit) be accessible. EOH and RI Housing incentivize Type A units by awarding two additional points for developments with no less than 10% accessible units as defined by the UFAS in the State’s Qualified Allocation Plan (“QAP”), which is used to issue funding awards for affordable housing developments.

Affordable housing development is essential to ensuring all Rhode Islanders have equal access to housing, and accessibility remains a priority. In 2024, RI Housing undertook a comprehensive update to the Design and Construction Standards and included a range of new accessibility features. Currently, RI Housing is finalizing an analysis of the impact different increased accessibility requirements would have on housing developments of different types. This analysis is essential in determining reasonable solutions for these important priorities and therefore, EOH respectfully recommends the Committee reviews this analysis once it is public.

EOH appreciates your consideration of these concerns and welcomes the opportunity to continue to collaborate with the bill’s sponsor and the Committee.

Sincerely,

Deborah J. Goddard

Deborah J. Goddard
Secretary of Housing

CC: The Honorable Members of the Senate Housing and Municipal Government Committee
Kristin Silvia, Director of Legislation and Deputy Chief of Staff
Steven Hayes, Esquire, Chief Legal Counsel to the Senate President