



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF COMMERCE

Submitted via Email

February 27, 2024

The Honorable Representative Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.
Chair, House Corporations Committee
State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: HB 7424 – Filing of Assumed Name

Dear Chair Solomon,

Rhode Island Commerce is pleased to offer this written testimony in support of House Bill 7424, an Act Relating to Commercial Law – General Regulatory Provisions – Filing of Assumed Name.

HB 7424 mandates that individuals must apply for a trade name certificate with the Secretary of State's office, creating a clear and easily understandable framework for compliance. This bill would improve the process of registering business trade names in Rhode Island, helping to promote a business-friendly environment by ensuring clarity, efficiency, and compliance in this area. The centralization of the business and trade name registration process with the Secretary of State — compared to the current decentralization among various city and town clerks — will improve the ease of doing business as well as make it easier for public and private entities to validate the identity of businesses with trade names.

The legislation, especially the creation of an online database by the Secretary of State, will modernize and simplify the registration process. These measures not only assist in compliance but also contribute to a more efficient and dependable system for businesses and regulatory authorities alike.

Therefore, Rhode Island Commerce is in strong support of HB 7424. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elizabeth M. Tanner".

Elizabeth M. Tanner, Esq.
Secretary of Commerce

CC. Honorable Members of the House Committee on Corporations
Representative Evan P. Shanley
Lou Mansolillo, Committee Clerk