



RHODE ISLAND SUPREME COURT

Office of General Counsel

Licht Judicial Complex

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Providence, RI 02903

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April 4, 2024

Via Electronic Mail (HouseJudiciary@rilegislature.gov)

The Honorable Robert E. Craven

House Judiciary Committee

Rhode Island General Assembly

House Lounge

Providence, RI 02903

Re: House Bill #7742: An Act Relating to Courts and Civil Procedure - Procedure In Particular Actions - Small Claims and Consumer Claims

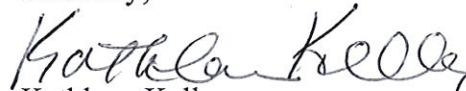
Dear Chairman Craven:

I write on behalf of the Rhode Island Judiciary to express our support for House Bill #7742, scheduled to be heard and considered this evening before the House Judiciary Committee. If enacted, this bill would amend R.I. Gen Laws §§ 10-16-4, 10-16-9 and 10-16-14 to define the set filing fee for a waiver of appeal, and appeals by a defendant, as well as allow attorneys and self-represented litigants to file appeals electronically.

Currently, filing fees vary and require attorneys and self-represented litigants to come to court to file an appeal. This legislation creates a set filing fee for attorneys and litigants filing for appeal from a District Court decision. Passage of this legislation would reduce the workload of court clerks who currently must manually calculate all filing fees. More importantly, passage will simplify the filing process for attorneys and self-represented litigant by allowing them to file an appeal electronically, thereby eliminated the need to come to the courthouse. *Please note, the Judiciary is requesting submission of a Substitute A to correct the amount of the fees in R.I Gen. Law § 10-16-14.*

Thank you for the opportunity to express the Judiciary's support for this bill. I am always available should you have any questions or wish to discuss further.

Sincerely,


Kathleen Kelly
General Counsel