



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
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Peter F. Neronha
Attorney General

May 8, 2024

The Honorable Robert E. Craven, Sr.
Chairman
House Committee on Judiciary
State House, House Lounge
Providence, RI 02903

Re: HB 8155: Name changes

Dear Chairman Craven and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I write today to express support for HB 8155, legislation that would make legal name changes more accessible, less burdensome, and safer for those who need them – all while codifying important guardrails in the name change process.

Under current Rhode Island law, the process for an individual to change their name can be unaffordable, require formalistic public notice, and does not provide a confidential avenue for those, such as domestic violence survivors or transgender individuals, with reasonable concerns regarding discrimination or personal safety. This bill will allow Rhode Islanders to safely and affordably change their names, and put us in line with the majority of jurisdictions that do not require publication of a name change announcement. The bill also provides courts with a “public interest” standard for considering name change petitions and allows judges to require name change petitioners to undergo criminal history record checks, codifying practices that would protect the process from abuse.

I appreciate the Committee’s consideration of this legislation and am available for any further questions the Committee may have.

Sincerely,

Peter F. Neronha
Attorney General