



Workers' Compensation Court of Rhode Island  
Garragy Judicial Complex  
One Barrance Plaza  
Providence, RI 02903

ROBERT M. FERRIERI  
CHIEF JUDGE

March 22, 2024

The Honorable K. Joseph Shekarchi  
Speaker of the RI House of Representatives  
State House  
Room 323  
Providence, RI 02903

RE: R.I.G.L. § 28-29-17.1 – Notice of designation as independent contractor  
House Bill H 7837

Dear Speaker Shekarchi:

I am writing this letter to clarify any confusion that has resulted relative to a proposed amendment to R.I.G.L. § 28-29-17.1. As you are aware, an amendment to this statute was passed in in 2023. After the amendment passed, the Court had an opportunity to review said amendment with the sub-committee of the Workers' Compensation Advisory Council. The sub-committee determined that the statute needed a further amendment. The statute requires a person to file a notice of designation of independent contractor form annually. However, presently it states that the designation of independent contractor shall continue in full force and effect unless the person withdraws that designation by filing a notice with the Director on a form provided by the Director. The statute fails to deal with a situation where the employee fails to submit an annual filing. Thus, language to the effect of "fails to submit an annual filing" is necessary to make the statute consistent. The sub-committee comprised of over 8 attorneys and/or Judges unanimously consented to the change.

I am open to a discussion with you in person on this matter. As always, I thank you for your courtesy and consideration.

Very truly yours,

Robert M. Ferrieri

**Chief Judge**

c George Nee, Chairperson, RI Workers' Compensation Advisory Council  
Matthew Weldon, Director, RI Department of Labor and Training  
Representative Arthur J. Corvese, Chairperson of the House Labor Committee