



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Department of Labor and Training

Center General Complex
1511 Pontiac Avenue
Cranston, RI 02920-4407

Telephone: (401) 462-8000
TTY: Via RI Relay 711

Daniel J. McKee
Governor
Matthew D. Weldon
Director

February 11, 2025

The Honorable Arthur J. Corvese
Chair, House Committee on Labor
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chair Corvese:

I write today in support of House Bill 5188, introduced by Representative Bennett.


Ensuring the safety of the public through enforcement of health and safety standards is core to the mission of the Department of Labor and Training. As part of this mission, our Division of Professional Regulation oversees the licensure, testing, registration, and discipline of individuals and trade occupations, including the administrative and regulatory functions of seven licensing boards.

In 2022, the General Assembly passed legislation that requires contractors and workers performing surface preparation and the application of protective coatings to steel structures on public projects to be certified by organizations meeting the NACE 13/ACS 1 standard. This bill would require the Department of Labor and Training to enforce the provisions of this chapter and provides an appropriate and necessary enforcement mechanism to carry out this responsibility.

One recommendation the Department would suggest is to provide further statutory clarification of the scope of work being performed that implicates the provisions of this chapter. This will allow us to establish clear guidelines for companies to follow and provide for a more consistent approach to enforcement.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at matthew.weldon@dlt.ri.gov or (401) 462-8870.

Sincerely,


Matthew D. Weldon
Director

CC: Honorable Members of the House Committee on Labor
The Honorable David A. Bennett
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House