

Dear Chair Casey, Vice Chairs Fogarty and Speakman, and members of the Rhode Island House Municipal Government and Housing Committee:

On behalf of the Travel Technology Association (Travel Tech) and our members, I thank you for the opportunity to submit [these comments](#) concerning Rhode Island's proposed H. 7465.

Travel Tech represents the leading innovators in travel technology, including online travel agencies (OTAs), metasearch companies, travel management companies, and short-term rental platforms. Our members' vital role in the travel and tourism industry empowers consumers, creates a fair and competitive marketplace, fosters accountability, and promotes positive customer experiences.

Rhode Island has and continues to derive a very real economic benefit from the presence of short-term rentals and the travelers who occupy them. Unfortunately, some provisions of H. 7465 are flawed and raise significant legal and practical concerns.

Since passage of the state's short-term rental registry legislation in 2022, platforms have been working with the state's Department of Business Regulation as well as their users to support rollout of the registry and educate short-term rental operators regarding their obligations under the law. Given the volume of listings covered in this registry and the short timeframe since it has been developed and launched, we expect there to be continued engagement from stakeholders to ensure its success. However, H. 7465 goes beyond what is reasonable or legally permissible.

With [these concerns](#) in mind, Travel Tech strongly urges the Committee to strike the data reporting, preverification, and expiration date display requirements from H. 7465 and replace it with language providing that a platform shall, upon written notice from the Department of Business Regulation that a listing lacks a valid license, remove the listing within fourteen days. Further, we ask that you monitor and support the rollout of the state's new short-term rental registry and pause additional legislative efforts until the registry and its impact have been evaluated.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this matter.

Many Thanks,

Laura

Laura Chadwick | President & CEO

Travel Technology Association

3033 Wilson Blvd., Suite 700, Arlington, VA 22201

P: +1 (703) 214-8878 | lchadwick@traveltech.org

<https://twitter.com/TravelTech>