



Director's Office

One Capitol Hill | Providence, RI 02908 | (401) 222-2280

Jonathan Womer, Director

March 28, 2024

The Honorable Stephen M. Casey
Chairman, House Municipal Government & Housing
Rhode Island House
82 Smith Street, Providence, RI 02903

Re: House Resolution No. 7977 - Entitled, House Resolution Creating a Special Legislative Commission To Study The Ability Of The Rhode Island Educational System To Offer Degree Or Certificate Programs Within The State To Provide a Supply And a Pipeline Of Planners, Planning Technicians, And Planning Staff

Dear Chair Casey,

Thank you for the opportunity for the Department of Administration (Department) to provide comments in support of House Bill No. 7977. This legislation proposes to form a study commission to examine and report on the ability of the Rhode Island educational system to develop a pipeline of planners, planning technicians and staff.

This resolution requests the Associate Director of the Division of Statewide Planning (Division), or a designee, to serve as a member of the proposed commission. The Division stands ready to assist in this important initiative.

Planners are responsible for a wide range of duties and responsibilities at various levels of government in Rhode Island. Planning degrees at the bachelor's, master's and doctorate levels provide invaluable professional training in the knowledge, skills, and principles of the field. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Structure and functions of urban settlements
- History and theory of planning processes and practices
- Administrative, legal, and political aspects of plan-making and policy implementation
- Quantitative analysis, problem formulation and solving
- Plan-making and program design, and
- Ethics

It is critical that government continues to have a strong pipeline of talented individuals who can engage in the important task of planning for Rhode Island's future. It is with that in mind that I respectfully encourage the House Committee on Municipal Government & Housing to recommend passage of House Resolution No. 7977.

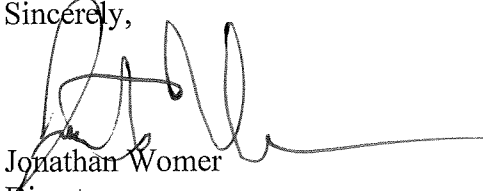


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Jonathan Womer, Director

Sincerely,



Jonathan Womer
Director

cc: The Honorable Speaker of the House, Representative Shekarchi
The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Municipal Government & Housing
Nicole McCarty, Chief Legal to the Speaker of the House
Meredith Brady, Associate Director, Division of Statewide Planning
Nancy Hess, Interdepartmental Program Manager, Division of Statewide Planning
Dawn Huntley, Committee Clerk