



## Director's Office

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

Jonathan Womer, Director

April 2, 2024

The Honorable Stephen M. Casey  
Chairperson  
House Committee on Municipal Government & Housing  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

**Re: House Bill No. 5665 – An Act Relating To Property -- Homeless Bill Of Rights**

Dear Chairperson Casey,

Thank you for providing Division of Capital Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) within the Department of Administration the opportunity to submit comments in response to House Bill No. 5665, which proposes new amendments to property rights, specifically relating to unhoused individuals and encampments.

The Division is sensitive to the needs, rights, and protections of individuals experiencing homelessness. As evidenced by Governor McKee's recent FY2026 budget proposal for two new sustainable funding sources to support people experiencing housing instability, the Administration takes seriously the challenges this population faces and is actively working to find practical, safe solutions to address housing for those in need.

However, the proposed language starting on page 2, line 33 which establishes a sixty (60) day minimum notice period prior to relocation of an individual experiencing homelessness from public property presents several concerns. As the custodian of State properties, the Division has an obligation to ensure the safety of all persons utilizing the public properties in our purview. Non-state entities seeking to use state properties and grounds for non-transient purposes must follow applicable state policies or secure proper agreements, such as a license agreement, through the State Properties Committee; compliance with these processes allows the state to evaluate the suitability and safety of the property or grounds for the intended purpose, including ensuring that public safety and health emergencies can be addressed without delay.

There are several steps the State takes before resorting to eviction on its properties. In particular, the State works closely with public and private partners to conduct outreach and offer supportive services, as it did in 2022 when there was an encampment on the steps of the State House. We are committed to a safe, humane and compassionate approach.

The Division appreciates your focus on this important topic, and for the opportunity to share our concerns over this legislation with the Committee. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact my office at your convenience.



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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marco Schiappa". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Marco Schiappa

Acting Director, Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance &  
Chairman, State Properties Committee

cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Municipal Government & Housing  
The Honorable Jennifer A. Stewart  
Nicole McCarty, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House  
Dawn Huntley, Committee Clerk