



# RIEMA

RHODE ISLAND  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Daniel J. McKee, **Governor**  
Marc R. Pappas, **Director**

April 2, 2025

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

Re: 2025 – H – 5953, An Act Relating to Military Affairs and Defense – Emergency Management

Dear Chair Casey:

2025 – H - 5953, An Act Relating to Military Affairs and Defense – Emergency Management, requires the Director of the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) to issue warming and cooling center alerts when the National Weather Service predicts specific temperatures and weather conditions in any city or town in the state, and to coordinate with cities and towns in providing information regarding available services on its webpage, and with local media, social media channels, and United Way's 211. Upon the issuance of an alert, municipalities are required to arrange for and maintain the shelters.

RIEMA, the Rhode Island Department of Health, and the Rhode Island Department of Housing already have a severe weather alert and shelter plan in place. Under this plan, RIEMA provides support to and disseminates information on the locations of these shelters. In contrast to the proposed legislation, this plan is scalable, flexible, and fluid, and can be swiftly adjusted to accommodate changing situations.

Respectfully,

Marc R. Pappas  
Director

cc: Honorable Members of the House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing  
Honorable Teresa A. Tanzi  
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House