



**RHODE ISLAND LEAGUE  
OF CITIES AND TOWNS**

*Distinctive Communities  
Powerful Alliance*

March 18, 2025

The Honorable Evan P. Shanley, Chair  
House State Government and Elections  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: BILL NUMBER H-5514 – AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- MAIL BALLOTS**

Chair Shanley and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, I write to express our support for House Bill 5514, which would exempt emergency mail ballots from the requirement to include certain wording regarding "mail voters" on the ballot.

This legislation represents an important step in streamlining the election process for municipalities and ensuring that emergency mail ballots remain accessible and efficient for voters in need. The existing requirement for specific wording on these ballots has created administrative challenges that can delay processing and add unnecessary complexity for local election officials. By removing this requirement, H-5514 would allow municipalities to better serve voters while maintaining the integrity and security of the election process.

Additionally, this bill aligns with the broader goal of modernizing Rhode Island's election procedures by reducing bureaucratic hurdles that do not enhance election security but instead create inefficiencies at the local level. Our cities and towns strive to provide clear, reliable, and accessible voting options, and this legislation will help facilitate that mission.

For these reasons, the League urges your support for House Bill 5514. We appreciate your consideration of this important measure and welcome any opportunity to further discuss its benefits to Rhode Island's municipalities.

Sincerely,

Randy R. Rossi  
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House State Government and Elections Committee