CONCISE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

In accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.6, the following is a concise explanatory statement:

AGENCY: Department of Human Services

DIVISION: Individual and Family Support Programs

RULE IDENTIFIER: 218-RICR-20-00-2

RULE TITLE: Rhode Island Works Program Rules and Regulations (218- RICR-20-00-2)

REASON FOR RULEMAKING: The Rhode Island Works Program (R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 40-5.2-1 et seq.) establishes the legal basis for a welfare to work program to assist needy families to prepare for, accept and retain employment with necessary supports, as quickly as possible, and is the law through which the Federal assistance program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, is available to families in Rhode Island who meet program eligibility criteria. This Direct Final Amendment is being filed to implement the Legislative changes that were signed by the Governor with the 2025 Rhode Island State Budget and effective July 1st, 2024, as well as clarify and simplify policy language to reduce barriers and provide supports to our families. The regulatory changes proposed in this filing are identical to the regulatory language currently in effect as of 01/16/2025. The effective version was originally noticed for public comment on 11/26/2024. After the end of the public comment period (11/26/24 through 12/26/24), a processing error occurred. As a result of processing error, the agency is repromulgating the regulatory changes (effective as of 01/16/25). The regulatory language included in this notice redlines changes made in the most recent promulgation. The agency is noticing these changes for additional public comment.

ANY FINDING REQUIRED BY LAW AS A PREREQUISITE TO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE RULE: None

TESTIMONY AND COMMENTS: The comment period ended on February 16, 2025. No comments were submitted.

CHANGE TO TEXT OF THE RULE: No changes have been made between the text of the rule as proposed and the final rule.

REGULATORY ANALYSIS: While constructing the proposed amended regulation, the Department considered a range of sources, including existing Rhode Island regulations and policies of similar subject matter, departmental experience, comparable states, federal partners, and industry best practice