

RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

PUBLIC COMMENT RESPONSES

Regulation(s): Petition for Promulgation of Rules

(240-RICR-00-00-1)

Summary of Rulemaking Action: The purpose of this Regulation is to prescribe the form of a Petition for Promulgation of Rules pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-6 and the procedure for its submission, consideration, and disposition.

Public Comment Period: 12/16/2025 through 1/18/2026

Public Hearing: A public hearing in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.5, to consider the proposed adoption was held on Tuesday, December 30th at 10:00 a.m. in Conference Room "A" of the Powers Building located at 1 Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908.

Summary of Received Public Comments: RIDOC received written testimony from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Rhode Island.

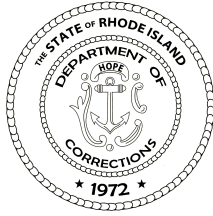
Multiple Submission Methods

Comment Summary:

The commenter notes that multiple submission methods are available for rulemaking petitions — including mail, hand delivery, and email — Section 1.4(B) of the proposed regulation requires that any mailed submission must also be sent via email in order to be considered. The commenter asserts that this requirement undermines the stated goal of providing diverse submission options and may create an unnecessary barrier for members of the public who prefer or are limited to mail-only submissions. The commenter recommends that mail and email be accepted as independent submission methods.

Agency Response:

The Department appreciates this comment and the concern raised regarding accessibility and submission flexibility for members of the public. The original intent of the dual-submission requirement was to reduce the risk of missed or delayed communications and to ensure timely receipt and processing of petitions. However, upon consideration of the comment and the goal of maximizing public access and



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participation in the rulemaking process, the Department agrees that mail and email should function as independent submission options.

In response to this comment, the Department will revise the regulatory language to remove the requirement that mailed submissions must also be sent electronically. The updated provision will permit submission by mail, hand delivery, or email as stand-alone methods. The Department will also add clarifying language encouraging individuals who choose to submit petitions by mail to consider using delivery methods that provide confirmation of receipt, such as certified mail or return receipt service, to help ensure successful delivery. These revisions better align the regulation with its stated objective of providing a range of accessible options for all petitioners.

RIDOC appreciates the public's time and effort taken to review the proposed regulations and submit comments that help strengthen clarity, accessibility, and effectiveness of the Department's regulatory framework.