

**RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENT REGISTER
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Title of Rule: Name Availability
Rule Identifier: 100-RICR-30-00-4
Rulemaking Action: Proposed Adoption

Important Dates:

Date of Public Notice: August 7, 2026
Hearing Dates: August 18, 2026
August 18, 2026
End of Public Comment: September 6, 2026

Rulemaking Authority:

R.I. Gen. Laws § 7-1.2-401

R.I. Gen. Laws § 7-6-11

R.I. Gen. Laws § 7-12.1-902

R.I. Gen. Laws § 7-13.1-114

R.I. Gen. Laws § 7-16-9

Summary of Rulemaking Action:

The Department of State is proposing to adopt 100-RICR-30-00-4 entitled, "Name Availability." With this proposed rule, the Secretary of State, is establishing the criteria necessary to meet the state's name availability standard of "distinguishable upon the record."

Additional Information and Public Comments:

All interested parties are invited to request additional information or submit written or oral comments concerning the proposed adoption until September 6, 2026 by contacting the appropriate party at the address listed below:

Rachel Strashnick
Department of State
33 Broad Street
Providence, RI 02903
rstrashnick@sos.ri.gov

Public Hearing:

A public hearing, in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.5, to consider the proposed adoption shall be held at which time and place all persons interested therein will be heard. This hearing is subject to R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 42-46, Open Meetings.

Public Hearing Information:

Date: August 18, 2026

Time: 9:30 A.M.

Location: State Library
State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI, 02903

Public Hearing Information:

Date: August 18, 2026

Time: 11:00 A.M.

Location: State Library
State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI, 02903

The seating capacity of the room will be enforced and, therefore, the number of persons participating in the hearing may be limited at any given time by the hearing officer in order to comply with safety and fire codes.

The place of the public hearing is accessible to individuals with disabilities. If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captioners) is needed, or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation, please call 401-222-3093 or RI Relay 711 at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting so arrangements can be made to provide such assistance at no cost to the person requesting. For questions regarding available parking, please contact the agency staffperson listed above.

Regulatory Analysis Summary and Supporting Documentation:

In the development of the proposed adoption, consideration was given to: (1) alternative approaches; (2) overlap or duplication with other statutory and regulatory provisions; and (3) significant economic impact on small business. No alternative approach, duplication, or overlap was identified based upon available information.

For full regulatory analysis or supporting documentation contact the agency staffperson listed above.