

LC003620

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026**

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- RHODE ISLAND  
REGULATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE IN NEED OF SCRUTINY ACT

Date Introduced: January 23, 2026

Referred To: House State Government & Elections

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

SECTION 1. Title 42 of the General Laws entitled "STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

## RHODE ISLAND REGULATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE IN NEED OF SCRUTINY ACT

This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Rhode Island Regulations from the

ive In Need of Scrutiny Act" or the "RI REINS Act."

The purpose of this chapter is to ensure accountability, transparency, and democratic oversight of administrative rulemaking by requiring affirmative legislative approval for significant regulations promulgated by executive agencies, consistent with the separation of powers.

As used in this chapter:

(1) "Agency" means any executive department, board, commission, council, or other administrative unit of the State of Rhode Island that promulgates regulations under chapter 35 of

(2) "Legislative approval resolution" means a bill, joint resolution, or other expressive enactment authorizing the major regulation to take effect.

1           (3) "Major regulation" means any proposed regulation that the agency estimates will have  
2 aggregate implementation or compliance costs of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) or more over a  
3 two (2) year period measured from the regulation's effective date.

4           (4) "Rule" or "regulation" means any agency statement of general applicability having the  
5 force of law, including interpretations, standards, and requirements.

6           **42-6.3-4. Economic impact analysis and certification.**

7           (a) Prior to submitting any proposed regulation to the rulemaking process, the agency shall  
8 prepare an economic impact analysis that quantifies the projected costs of implementation and  
9 compliance over a two (2) year period.

10          (b) The economic impact analysis shall be submitted to the house and senate committees  
11 on finance for review.

12          **42-6.3-5. Legislative review and approval requirement.**

13          (a) If the economic impact analysis demonstrates that the proposed regulation is a major  
14 regulation, the agency shall not adopt or implement the regulation unless and until the general  
15 assembly passes a legislative approval resolution specifically authorizing the regulation.

16          (b) The agency shall transmit the proposed major regulation and its economic impact  
17 analysis to the secretary of state, who shall promptly refer it to the general assembly for  
18 consideration.

19          (c) A major regulation shall remain ineffective and unenforceable until:

20               (1) A legislative approval resolution has passed both chambers of the general assembly;  
21 and

22               (2) Such resolution is presented to the governor for signature or otherwise becomes law in  
23 accordance with the Rhode Island constitution.

24          **42-6.3-6. Exceptions.**

25          (a) Emergency regulations necessary for public health, safety, or welfare may be  
26 promulgated without prior legislative approval, but such regulations must be submitted to the  
27 general assembly within thirty (30) days and shall expire after ninety (90) days unless expressly  
28 ratified by the legislature.

29          (b) Regulations that are expressly required by federal law, federal court order, or state  
30 constitutional mandate are exempt from the requirements of this chapter.

31          **42-6.3-7. Reporting and sunset review.**

32          (a) Agencies shall include with each annual regulatory agenda a summary of all proposed  
33 regulations subject to this chapter, including cost analyses and approval status.

34          (b) The provisions of this chapter shall be reviewed by the house and senate committees

1    [on judiciary and government oversight every five \(5\) years.](#)

2            **42-6.3-8. Severability.**

3            [If any provision of this chapter, or the application thereof, is held invalid, the remainder of](#)  
4    [the chapter shall not be affected thereby.](#)

5            SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T  
RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- RHODE ISLAND  
REGULATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE IN NEED OF SCRUTINY ACT

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- 1           This act would establish the Rhode Island Regulations from the Executive In Need of
- 2   Scrutiny Act which would require review and approval of rules with implementation and
- 3   compliance costs of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) or more over a two (2) year period.
- 4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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