



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

State House  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-1196  
401-222-2080

Gina M. Raimondo  
Governor

July 2, 2018

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

In accordance with the provisions of Article IX, Section 14 of the Constitution of the State of Rhode Island and Section 43-1-4 of the Rhode Island General Laws, I transmit, with my disapproval, 2018-H 8354, "An Act Relating to Businesses and Professions – Real Estate Sales Disclosures."

This legislation adds a new provision to the state's real estate sales disclosure laws, requiring that sellers of real estate disclose to potential buyers if the premises were used for marijuana cultivation.

This legislation would not strengthen existing protections for potential homebuyers. The main sources of concern attributed to marijuana grow operations – namely, mold or water damage, electrical or HVAC alterations, and the like – are already required disclosures under Rhode Island law. This new requirement does not materially improve consumer protection but does expose participants in Rhode Island's medical marijuana program to new and potentially unanticipated scrutiny. To this effect, I have received veto requests from Rhode Island ACLU, the Rhode Island Association of Realtors, and the Rhode Island Patient Advocacy Coalition.

For these reasons, I disapprove of this legislation and respectfully urge your support of this veto.

Sincerely,

Gina M. Raimondo  
Governor