



# Office of Health Regulations

# OHR Responsibilities



- Oversight of RIDOH's regulatory process
- Assist programs in writing regulations
- Benefit-cost analyses and fiscal notes
- **Community engagement and public comment response**

# Public Participation in Rulemaking



- **Best Way to Stay Informed:** Sign up for RIDOH's list of interested parties for regulations.
- Single contact list used to distribute RIDOH's regulatory notices.
- Contact the Rules Coordinator and request that your name and email address be added.
- **Please Note:** RIDOH does not maintain separate interested parties lists for individual regulations, so if you request to be added to the list you will receive required notices regarding all of RIDOH's regulations.

# Types of Notices



- **Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (“ANPR”) (OPTIONAL)** formerly known as “community review.” Can include:
  - Open meeting discussions
  - Advisory committees
- **Public Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (REQUIRED)** opens the formal public comment period:
  - Includes summaries, analyses, and text of proposed regulations
  - Dates of PC periods and public hearings
- **Main Differences:** Types of meetings/hearings held, and formal response to comments.

# Regulatory Meetings/Hearings



- **Community Review Meetings:** Occur during an ANPR notice period, and are an open discussion between RIDOH personnel and attendees.
- **Public Hearings** do not allow for the type of Q&A format available during ANPR meetings.
- Both types of meetings are optional for RIDOH, but a public hearing will be granted if requested in the **first 10 days** of a regulation's formal public comment period.

# Responses to Public Comments



- ANPR comments (including minutes of any meetings held) are included in the documentation posted for formal public comment.
- A formal response from RIDOH, the Concise Explanatory Statement (“CES”), is required to address **all** revisions suggested during the formal public comment period.
- If multiple comments recommend the same revision, they will receive one response in the CES.
- The CES includes RIDOH’s reasons for not accepting any suggested revisions.

# Additional Options



- **Professional Boards** at RIDOH include representatives of various interested parties and the public, and can be involved at all steps of the regulatory process depending on statutory requirements.
- [Sign up](#) with the Department of State to receive regulatory notices.
- You can also sign up on Department of State's [Open Meetings website](#) to receive notices of a particular Board's meetings.

# Helpful Links



SOS' State Rules and Regulations webpage:

<http://sos.ri.gov/divisions/Open-Government/State/rules-and-regulations>

Rhode Island Code of Regulations:

<https://rules.sos.ri.gov/organizations>

Office of Regulatory Reform's webpage:

<http://www.omb.ri.gov/reform/>



# Questions, Comments, Concerns



Please let us know  
if you have any questions



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