



MINORITY CONSTITUTIONAL ADVOCATE

Proposed three-year pilot inside the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office

One Attorney General. One independent minority voice. No veto.

THE IDEA

The Attorney General keeps the office's prosecutorial and litigation authority. The Advocate adds an independent channel for dissent, complaint review and factual investigation so major decisions can be tested before and after they are made.

WHY CREATE IT?

Rhode Island law places the Attorney General at the head of the department and gives the office major litigation and prosecutorial responsibilities. The pilot would create an internal counter-view without creating a second Attorney General.

WHAT THE OFFICE WOULD DO

- Attend major policy and litigation-policy meetings and receive the materials needed for meaningful review.
- Issue Minority Reports when the Advocate disagrees. The report accompanies the decision and becomes part of the permanent official record.
- Receive complaints from people who believe they were treated improperly by the Attorney General's Office and provide written dispositions.
- Conduct prosecutorial-integrity reviews, including credible allegations involving Brady/Giglio disclosure, discovery failures, false evidence or other misconduct.
- When appropriate, submit factual investigative reports to the court; the court decides whether a violation occurred and what remedy is lawful.
- Through retained counsel, file amicus briefs or seek intervention in important constitutional and public-law matters where a materially different nonfrivolous position exists.
- Publish systemic findings and an annual Taxpayer Savings Ledger separating verified savings from estimates.

GUARDRAILS

- No power to initiate or dismiss prosecutions, enter a nolle prosequi, direct prosecutors, or bind the State to a settlement.
- No veto over the Attorney General and no authority to command AG staff.
- Court filings and appearances use retained counsel and remain subject to court rules, privileges and protective orders.
- Qualifications for the Advocate are the same as for Attorney General.
- Complaint and investigative files are segregated from ordinary AG access to preserve operational independence.

PILOT FUNDING

~\$950,000 / year

Proposed source: existing Attorney General operating resources, to the extent legally permissible within appropriation and funding restrictions.

FY2027 budget math: \$53.372M total - \$2.675M capital = \$50.697M operating; \$950K / \$50.697M = 1.87%.

FIVE-PERSON PILOT STRUCTURE

Minority Constitutional Advocate

policy, complaint and review authority

Deputy / Policy

minority reports & policy review

Senior Investigator

integrity & complaint investigations

Complaints / Records

intake, records & confidentiality

Research / Fiscal

systemic analysis & savings ledger

+ retained counsel / technical experts as needed

THREE-YEAR TEST

Track complaints resolved, Minority Reports issued, policies changed, integrity reviews completed, court reports submitted, and verified fiscal savings against the \$950,000 annual pilot cost.