

Rhode Island

[2007 Report](#) and 2009-10 Update by Karen Quinn, Rhode Island State Law Library

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| <p>OFFICIAL STATUS</p> <p>X</p> <p>No change since the 2007 report</p> | <p>AUTHENTICATION</p> <p>X</p> <p>No change since the 2007 report</p> |
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Rhode Island online legal resources are not official.
The state publishes its statutes, session laws, and court opinions in print official format. Although administrative rules and regulations are filed with the Secretary of State “by or through electronic data or machine readable equipment,” this is not considered the official format. Agencies must also submit paper copies of the materials.

Rhode Island is addressing the authentication of online legal resources.
Regulation 35 000 015, issued by the Secretary of State, is designed to ensure state digitization projects “occur within the framework of sound records management” and that digitized records remain accurate, authentic, and complete and maintain their integrity.

Has the state eliminated the print publication of any of these titles in favor of online only since the 2007 report? Rhode Island has not eliminated any print publication of primary law to date.

Has the state enacted legislation guaranteeing the public’s permanent access to state online government information since the 2007 report? The State Archives oversees the *Rhode Island Historical Records Trust* (RIGL 42-8.1-20). The program associated with this trust provides government entities with aid, advice and assistance associated with the management and preservation of the public records in their custody or care. Electronic records are not specifically referred to in the legislation. Rhode Island regulation 35-000-015, entitled *Making and Management of Imaged Public Records* supports the move toward digital government. It outlines the framework within which the rules for the creation and management of digitized public records are set as well as identifies the technical requirements with which agencies must comply. Preservation of imaged public records is a component addressed by this regulation.

Have courts in your state adopted a medium neutral citation system since the 2007 report? No, there has been no move toward adoption of a medium neutral citation format.

Have there been any significant changes to the 2007 state summary? There have been no significant changes to the 2007 state summary.

The disclaimers as to authenticity remain on the General Assembly website and the Secretary of State's webpage, which contains the state's regulations. Electronic versions of administrative rules and regulations continue to be filed in a database maintained by the Secretary of State. They are verified against the print copies. There are procedures in place to authenticate the officials that submit the data.

The Judicial website, which houses the Supreme and Superior Court Opinions are not certified as *official*, nor are they *authenticated*. The official version of the Supreme Court's opinions is published in the Atlantic Reporter and its offshoot, the Rhode Island Reporter. There is no disclaimer as to authentication found on the website.

In 2007, the General Assembly increased the fees that are designated for the Rhode Island Historical Records Trust. This trust oversees the preservation of public records in their custody. Technical amendments in 2009 to Rhode Island regulation 35-000-015, entitled *Making and Management of Imaged Public Records*, clarified statutory authority.