The Department of Business Regulation (“Department”) hereby adopts the amendments to Commercial Licensing Regulation 8 and makes this statement in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.3. The purpose of the amendment to this regulation is to set forth certain procedures and protocols in response to the electronic license application and renewal application processes. The submission of electronic applications and renewal applications is necessary in order to enhance efficiencies and streamline the license application and renewal process. In order to allow licensees and applicants an opportunity to submit late applications without disrupting their business operations, it is necessary to charge late fees. The actions and information required by this regulation are hereby declared to be necessary and appropriate to the public interest. This regulation is promulgated in order to enforce compliance with Title 3 of the Rhode Island General Laws, generally, and R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 3-6-1(c), 3-6-1.2(d), 3-6-7, 3-6-9, 3-6-10, 3-6-12, 3-6-14(f), 3-7-7.4, 3-7-14.2(a), 3-7-15(c), 3-7-25(c). There are no differences between the text of the proposed regulation as published in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-3 and the regulation as adopted. The Department received one comment at its hearing scheduled on November 13, 2007 from Dale J. Venturini, President/CEO of Rhode Island Hospitality and Tourism Association. Ms. Venturini expressed concern about the timing of the regulation and the effect that it may have on licensees who may not know about the late fee prior to the effective date of the amendments to this regulation.