



State of Rhode Island  
Office of the General Treasurer

**James A. Diossa**  
General Treasurer

21 April 2025

The Honorable Marvin Abney  
Chair, House Committee on Finance

The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance

**RE:** 2025-H 5315 – *An Act Relating to Elections – General Provisions*

Chair Abney:

I write with regard to 2025-H 5315, which would expand post-retirement employment options for “any person employed in the administration or conduct of elections by the state board, board of canvassers or any poll worker, or within the elections division of the secretary of state.” 2025-H 5315.

Currently, retired state employees are not permitted to “be employed or reemployed by any state agency or department unless any and all retirement benefits to which he or she may be entitled . . . are suspended for the duration of any employment or reemployment.” R.I. Gen. Law § 36-10-39. This bill would allow specified election officials to work up to 90 days in general election years, in a year where there is a statewide special election, or in a year where there is a special congressional election. Since this legislation will expand post-benefit retirements, it may have some – albeit limited – impact on the state’s pension system.

Consistent with Rhode Island law, legislation concerning the pension system should not be approved without the benefit of a pension impact note. *See* R.I. Gen. Law § 36-10-39 (Legislation impacting the pension system “shall *not* be approved by the general assembly unless an explanatory statement or note . . . is appended to the proposed legislation which actuarially calculates . . . the projected twenty (20) year cost of the proposed legislation”) (emphasis added). This independent assessment will clarify any impact the proposed legislation may have on both the State budget, and the sustainability of the pension system. The Chairperson of the House Finance Committee – with the approval of the Speaker of the House – can request a pension impact note concerning proposed legislation originating in the House. *See* R.I. Gen. Law § 36-10-39.

Please feel free to reach out by email at [Robert.CravenJr@treasury.ri.gov](mailto:Robert.CravenJr@treasury.ri.gov) or by phone at (401) 330-0661 with any further questions.

Respectfully,

Robert E. Craven, Jr.  
Director of Policy and Intergovernmental Affairs  
Office of the General Treasurer

cc: The Honorable Alex Finkelman