



*Distinctive Communities
Powerful Alliance*

April 16, 2026

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney, Chair
House Finance Committee
Rhode Island House of Representatives
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: HOUSE BILL 7390 - AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- TEACHERS' RETIREMENT

Chair Abney and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, we write to respectfully offer testimony regarding House Bill 7390, which would establish an additional retirement eligibility pathway for teachers, state employees, and municipal employees allowing retirement upon the earlier of attaining age sixty (60) with thirty (30) years of service or reaching the employee's existing retirement eligibility date under current law.

The League recognizes and appreciates the intent behind this legislation and the respect it extends to the long and dedicated service of Rhode Island's public employees, including teachers and municipal workers who have committed their careers to serving our communities. These employees are essential to the delivery of public services, and their contributions are both valued and deeply appreciated.

However, the League has concerns regarding the potential fiscal and operational implications of expanding retirement eligibility in this manner. While the proposal may not create an immediate mandate, changes to retirement eligibility criteria have long-term actuarial consequences that can directly impact employer contribution rates within the state's retirement system, including the Municipal Employees' Retirement System. Earlier retirement eligibility can increase the duration of benefit payments, contribute to increased unfunded liability exposure, and may place upward pressure on future municipal budget obligations.

In addition to the fiscal considerations, municipalities may also experience workforce planning challenges, including the potential for accelerated retirements, loss of experienced personnel, and increased difficulty in maintaining staffing continuity in critical local government functions. These impacts may vary across communities but are particularly significant in smaller municipalities with limited staffing capacity.

Given these uncertainties, the League Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 22-12-3, the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns is noting possible municipal fiscal impacts and requesting a fiscal note for the Committee's consideration. Such analysis would provide policymakers with necessary information to fully understand the long-term financial implications of the proposal.

The League remains committed to working collaboratively with the General Assembly on policies that support public employees while ensuring the long-term fiscal stability of municipal government and the retirement systems that serve them. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R.R. Rossi', written in a cursive style.

Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House Finance Committee