



State of Rhode Island
Office of the General Treasurer

James A. Diosa
General Treasurer

13 April 2026

The Honorable Marvin Abney
Chair, House Committee on Finance

The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance

RE: *2026-H 7685– An Act Relating to Public Officers and Employees – Retirement System – Contributions and Benefits*

Chair Abney:

I write with regard to 2026-H 7685, which adds probation and parole officers to the list of public safety personnel in the Employees’ Retirement System of Rhode Island afforded retirement benefits similar to those provided to municipal police officers and firefighters.

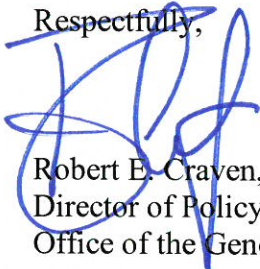
During the 2024 legislative session, the General Assembly approved legislation that extended similar benefits to about 380 other state employees (such as sheriffs, capitol police officers, and environmental police officers, firefighters and crash rescue at Quonset Airport, and juvenile program workers). *See* 2024-H 7225, Art. 12Aaa. That provision also increased the contribution rate for this class of state employees from 8.75% to 10%, and suspended contributions to the state defined contribution plan. *See* R.I. Gen. Laws § 36-10-1; 2024-H 7225, Art. 12Aaa. As currently drafted, this legislation would provide for an enhanced benefit without a corresponding increase in the employee contribution rate paid by all other state public safety personnel.

Since this legislation purports to enhance retirement benefits for two additional groups of state employees, it will have an impact on the state 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 or by phone at (401) 330-0661 with any further questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'R. Craven, Jr.', written over the typed name.

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

cc: The Honorable William O'Brien