



*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 7806 - AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES -- RETIREMENT SYSTEM -- CONTRIBUTIONS AND BENEFITS

Chair Abney and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, we write to offer comments regarding House Bill 7806, which proposes changes to the post-retirement employment provisions within the Employees' Retirement System of Rhode Island (ERSRI).

The League appreciates the intent of this legislation and the value that experienced public employees can bring when returning to municipal service, particularly in times of workforce constraints or operational need.

However, the League shares the concerns raised by the Office of the General Treasurer regarding the structure and potential implications of the bill as currently drafted. We are in agreement with the Treasurer's Office that the proposal may introduce statutory ambiguity and could benefit from clarification to ensure consistency within existing post-retirement employment provisions.

We also concur that expanding post-retirement employment opportunities without clear limitations may have broader implications for the retirement system. Such changes can influence retirement and reemployment behavior in ways that may not be fully anticipated, including the potential for earlier retirements followed by reemployment in positions that combine salary and pension benefits. In addition, increased reliance on rehired retirees in lieu of active employees may have downstream effects on contribution levels within the system, with potential long-term implications for its fiscal stability.

While the League recognizes the value of providing municipalities with flexibility, particularly in fiscally constrained environments, we believe any expansion of post-retirement employment should be carefully structured to ensure clarity, consistency, and fiscal sustainability.

The League appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony. We look forward to continued collaboration on policies that balance municipal operational needs with the long-term stability of the retirement system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy R. Rossi".

Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House Finance Committee