



State of Rhode Island
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE
State Police Headquarters, 311 Danielson Pike, North Scituate, Rhode Island 02857
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT AND DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Colonel Darnell S. Weaver
Superintendent

April 16, 2026

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

RE: 2026-H 8353– An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government – State Police

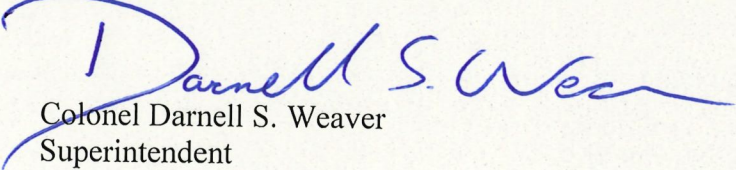
Dear Chairman Abney:

I am writing this letter in support of the H 8353– An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government – State Police which seeks to clarify the three-year final average compensation provision for retiring members of the Rhode Island state Police. By way of background, last legislative session, the General Assembly amended R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-28-22, through a budget article. See Article 3, 2025 H-5076 Sub A. The purpose of the amendment was to extend the three-year final average that exists for nearly every retiring state employee to retiring members of the Rhode Island State Police.

After the amended law became effective and retiring members of the Rhode Island State Police sought guidance from ERSRI, retiring employees were informed that the amendment only provided a fragmented three-year final average. Specifically, ERSRI determined the benefit change applied only to those with a hire date before July 1, 2007, and only for time accrued after July 1, 2012. ERSRI based this interpretation on multiple references to R.I. Gen. Laws § 36-8-1(5)(a), which is the five-year final average salary provision, remaining in the statute in multiple locations. This interpretation results in three-year average not fully applying to any member of the Rhode Island State Police and not applying to any employee hired after July 1, 2007. H-8353 remedies the current state of confusion by eliminating all references to R.I. Gen. Laws § 36-8-1(5)(a), the five-year average subsection.

I support H-8353 because it aligns with the Division's goal regarding the recruitment of qualified applicants, the retention of current sworn members and the overall morale of the rank and file. Thank you for the opportunity to provide my support for H 8353– An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government – State Police.

Sincerely,


Colonel Darnell S. Weaver
Superintendent
Rhode Island State Police

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney, Chair
April 16, 2026
Page 2

cc: Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance
Nicole McCarty, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House
Major Ronald Longolucco
Adam Sholes, Esq. – DPS Chief Legal Counsel
Governor's Office