



State of Rhode Island
Office of the General Treasurer

James A. Diossa
General Treasurer

20 May 2026

The Honorable Marvin Abney
Chair, House Committee on Finance

The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance

RE: *2026-H 8506 – An Act Relating to Public Officers and Employees – Retirement System – Contributions and Benefits*

Chair Abney:

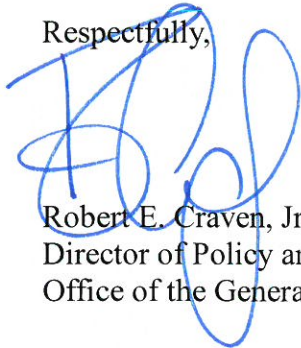
I write with regard to 2026-H 8506, which makes several amendments to pension benefits provided to members of the Central Falls Legacy Police and Fire Plans. In Central Falls, legacy plans are comprised of public safety professionals in active service as of August 31, 2019. These plans are administered by the Employees' Retirement System of Rhode Island but are segregated from members that began their careers after that date and receive different benefits.

This legislation is the result of a collective bargaining process between the city, the Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge 2 (representing the city's police force), and Local 1485, International Association of Fire Fighters, AFL-CIO (representing the city's firefighters). It will codify certain provisions of that collective bargaining agreement pertaining to legacy member benefits agreed upon by all pertinent parties. It would not alter the benefits of active members in non-legacy units within the Municipal Employees' Retirement System ("MERS").

This legislation would still require a pension impact assessment for an accurate cost estimate, consistent with state law. However, Treasury has been working closely with both the city and union representation to ensure all parties are fully appraised of any cost implications emanating from this bill.

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 word 'Respectfully,'.

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

cc: The Honorable Joshua Giraldo