



Rhode Island Judicial, Professional And Technical Employees' Local Union 808

June 2, 2026

Representative Marvin L. Abney, Chairman
Chair House Finance Committee
Rhode State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, R.I. 02903

RE: H-7055

Dear Chairman Abney;

On behalf of Laborers' Local Union 808, the Public Sector as a Union Representative and a State Employee, I am in support of House Bill H7055. Passing this legislation would ensure that State employees would have the ability to negotiate longevity in respect to Collective Bargaining. When Longevity was removed as a bargaining piece for employees as well as employers this resulted in increased efforts in retaining and the recruitment of Public Employees.

Once Employees reach their highest step within the established pay plans the results are a dead-end job. This forces employees with institutional knowledge to look elsewhere for higher pay. Having Longevity that is structured rewards employees for their years of service to the State of Rhode Island. A thank you for the loyalty and the hard work employees do as Public Servants, it also helps boost morale as well.

Restoring Longevity would help decrease the job hopping that continuously occurs, in turn this would help reduce the increased administrative costs that goes into hiring. The facts are that Longevity is the key to a sustainable work force and establishes long term financial growth. Put plainly it is the right thing to do. That is why I am in support of this legislation restoring longevity being proposed.

Thank You,

Karen Hazard
Business Manager