



We Make Rhode Island Happen

AFSCME Rhode Island Council 94

American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO

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MEMO TO: House Labor & Gaming Committee

MEMO FROM: Jim Cenerini, Legislative Affairs/Political Action Coordinator

DATE: April 15, 2026

RE: Support H-7082 / S-2409 - Municipal Binding Arbitration

RI Council 94, American Federation of State County, and Municipal Employees, on behalf of 4,000 municipal employees, **strongly supports H-7082 / S-2409**, which would make Municipal Arbitration binding on wages and all other terms and conditions of employment.

Currently, Municipal Arbitration is binding only on non-economic issues that do not require the expenditure of money.

Similar to Police Officers and Firefighters, it's illegal for Municipal Employees to strike.

However, the Firefighters' and Police Officers' Arbitration Acts provide for final and binding decisions on all matters, including monetary issues.

Council 94 urges passage of H-7082 / S-2409:

- Levels the Playing Field- Municipal employees need a fair, balanced, and objective process which provides fair, full and final resolutions to all issues.
- Landscape has Changed-School Committees, Town Managers, and Mayors often threaten to unilaterally impose contract terms.
- Binding Arbitration exists in Rhode Island- The General Assembly has provided Binding Arbitration, through the creation of collective bargaining statutes, to Firefighters (1961), Police Officers (1963), State Police (1979), 911 employees (1989), and Correctional Officers (2005).
- Connecticut has had binding arbitration for all Municipal Employees and Teachers for many years.

RI Council 94, AFSCME appreciates your consideration and respectfully requests that you **support H-7082 / S-2409**.

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