

## **SCHEDULED FOR HEARING AND/OR CONSIDERATION**

House Bill No. 7040

BY Bennett, Noret, Read, Hull, Shanley, Corvese, Dawson, Voas, McNamara, Kazarian  
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS – MUNICIPAL  
POLICE ARBITRATION {LC3175/1} (Extends provisions of an existing collective bargaining  
agreement for municipal police arbitration purposes until a successor agreement is reached or an  
interest arbitration award is rendered.)

01/09/2026 Introduced, referred to House Labor

04/10/2026 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

### **Testimony Summary**

**Pro:** ( Individuals / 3 Corporations)

Patrick Crowley, AFLCIO  
Jim Cenerini, RI Council 94 AFSCME

John Rossi, IBPO, said this will keeps things on track in negotiations.

**Neutral:**

**Written Testimony Pro:**

**Concerns:**

**Con:** ( Individuals / 1 Corporations)

**Written testimony Con:**

04-15-2026--H7040--Randy\_Rossi (RI League of Cities and Towns)

While we understand the intent behind this legislation, we believe it presents significant challenges to the fiscal health of municipalities and to responsible municipal governance. House Bill 7040 would constrain municipal leaders during labor negotiations by automatically extending collective bargaining agreements. Removing the natural expiration of contracts reduces the incentive for both parties to engage in timely and meaningful negotiations, potentially slowing the resolution of disputes and undermining the negotiation process. Additionally, the proposed automatic and indefinite contract continuation does not account for the diverse financial realities of Rhode Island's cities and towns. While temporary extensions can be appropriate in certain cases to support negotiations and maintain labor relations, a broad, one-size-fits-all mandate could exacerbate financial pressures for municipalities already contending with constrained budgets, increasing pension and healthcare obligations, and rising personnel costs.

