

March 4, 2025

The Honorable Stephen M. Casey, Chair  
House Municipal Government and Housing  
Rhode Island House of Representatives  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

RE: BILL NUMBER H-5693 – AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- ORDINANCES

Dear Chair Casey and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, I am writing to express our support for House Bill 5693, which presents a significant opportunity for municipalities to enhance enforcement mechanisms and hold violators of established ordinances accountable.

H-5693 proposes a pragmatic approach to addressing ordinance violations by allowing municipalities to seek recovery of fines associated with these violations. Specifically, the legislation enables municipalities to include unpaid fines as part of a taxpayer's property tax bill, providing an additional avenue for enforcement.

One of the key strengths of this legislation is its ability to streamline the enforcement process and encourage compliance with local ordinances. By allowing municipalities to add unpaid citations to property tax bills only after the property owner has failed to pay or dispute the violation, the legislation ensures fairness and due process.

Moreover, this approach not only holds violators accountable but also provides a cost-effective solution for municipalities. By empowering local governments with the authority to seek recovery of fines through property tax bills, H-5693 promotes responsible citizenship and fosters a culture of compliance with local regulations. This proactive measure strengthens enforcement capabilities while reinforcing the importance of upholding community standards.

In conclusion, we urge your support for H-5693, as it will enable municipalities to more effectively address ordinance violations, promote civic responsibility, and achieve significant cost savings for local governments.

On behalf of the League of Cities and Towns, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. R. Rossi".

Randy R. Rossi  
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House Municipal Government and Housing