

March 25, 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-5950 – AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- GENERAL POWERS

Chair Casey and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, I submit this testimony in strong support of House Bill 5950, a League priority for this legislative session. We appreciate Representative Scott Slater's leadership in sponsoring this important legislation, which addresses a long-standing concern for municipalities across Rhode Island.

House Bill 5950 establishes a reimbursement system for the costs municipalities incur when training public safety personnel who are subsequently hired by a different municipality or public safety agency within three years. This legislation provides a fair and equitable solution between municipalities by ensuring that the financial burden of training is shared, rather than falling solely on the original hiring community. The sliding-scale reimbursement model will help cities and towns recover a portion of their investment while still allowing for career mobility within public safety agencies.

This bill aligns with the League's commitment to promoting municipal fiscal responsibility and ensuring that local governments have the resources necessary to maintain strong public safety departments. By reducing the financial strain on cities and towns, this legislation supports a more sustainable and cooperative approach to public safety staffing across Rhode Island.

We respectfully urge the committee to support House Bill 5950 and advance this practical solution to an issue that affects municipalities statewide. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House Municipal Government and Housing