

April 22, 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-6043 – A N A C T RELATING TO TAXATION -- LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TAXES

Dear Chair Casey and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, I write to express our concern regarding House Bill 6043, which proposes technical amendments and clarifications to statutes relating to the assessment of real property and the timing and process for appeals. While we understand the intent of this legislation is to streamline procedures and provide clarity, the League has identified several provisions that could have adverse effects on our member municipalities if enacted as written.

Our specific concerns with H-6043 include:

- Amendments to § 45-5-15: The proposed changes would remove a critical reporting requirement that has served municipalities well in the appeal process. Eliminating this requirement could expose cities and towns to procedural vulnerabilities and potentially increase the volume and complexity of property tax appeals.
- Changes to § 44-5-26: The bill's shift from a defined number of days to a fixed appeal date does not account for municipalities like the City of East Providence, which operates on a different fiscal year than the standard July-to-June cycle. This could result in unintended administrative burdens and inconsistencies in the appeals timeline.
- Assessment Form Modifications: The current form prescribed in law has functioned effectively for years. Replacing it with an unspecified form to be created by the Division of Municipal Finance introduces uncertainty and may not adequately reflect local needs or capabilities.

The League respectfully requests that these issues be revisited to ensure consistency, transparency, and fairness in the property tax appeal process across all Rhode Island municipalities. We appreciate the sponsor's efforts and stand ready to work collaboratively with the General Assembly, Division of Municipal Finance, and other stakeholders to improve the legislation while preserving its core intent.

Thank you for your attention to these matters and your continued support of municipal government.

Sincerely,



Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House Municipal Government and Housing