



March 24, 2026

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

RE: HOUSE BILL 7444 – AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- OPTIONAL RETIREMENT FOR MEMBERS OF POLICE FORCE AND FIREFIGHTERS

Dear Chair Casey and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, we wish to express our concerns regarding House Bill 7444, which would provide all retired police officers and firefighters with an additional retirement allowance equal to their accrued benefit as of June 30, 2026, plus 2.5% of the final compensation multiplied by years of service after that date. The League appreciates the intent of this legislation to recognize and honor the dedicated service of public safety personnel and the value they bring to our communities.

At the same time, we are concerned about the fiscal and administrative implications of the proposal for municipalities. The bill would create a new, ongoing retirement obligation that may be significant and difficult to fully project without a formal fiscal analysis. Applying the increase universally, regardless of age or years of service, could create disparities with previously retired members and current employees, complicating pension administration and raising equity concerns. Municipal retirement boards would also face additional administrative challenges in calculating and disbursing these supplemental allowances, including tracking post-June 30, 2026 service and verifying final compensation amounts.

Given these considerations, the League believes it would be highly beneficial to have a formal fiscal note prepared prior to enactment. This would allow policymakers and municipalities to fully understand the potential financial impact and ensure that the intent of the legislation can be achieved while responsibly managing municipal resources.

The League stands ready to work with the sponsor and legislative leadership to help address the practical, financial, and administrative realities facing cities and towns.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our perspective.

Sincerely,

Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House Municipal Government and Housing