



*Distinctive Communities
Powerful Alliance*

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 7660 – 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, I am writing to express our concern regarding House Bill 7660, which would allow police officers and firefighters to retire without reduction in benefits after reaching the age of fifty-seven (57) with at least twenty (20) years of service. While we appreciate the intent of this legislation in recognizing the dedication of our public safety personnel, we have serious concerns regarding the financial implications for municipalities.

Public safety pensions represent a significant portion of municipal budgets, and any adjustments to retirement benefits must be evaluated carefully to ensure fiscal sustainability. The proposed change could result in substantial cost increases for local governments, particularly if it accelerates retirement and increases pension liabilities.

Given these potential financial consequences, we believe a fiscal analysis would be beneficial. A formal fiscal note would provide municipalities with the data necessary to fully understand the impact on budgets and pension systems, enabling informed decision-making while still supporting public safety personnel.

The League remains ready to collaborate with the bill sponsor and stakeholders to explore approaches that achieve the policy's intent while maintaining financial sustainability for our communities. We welcome the opportunity to work on amended language that addresses any unintended consequences and balances the interests of both public safety personnel and municipal budgets.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our perspective.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Rossi", is written over a light blue background.

Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House Municipal Government and Housing