



State of Rhode Island
Office of the General Treasurer

James A. Diossa
General Treasurer

22 April 2025

The Honorable Evan Shanley
Chair, House Committee on State Government & Elections

The Honorable Members of the House Committee on State Government & Elections

RE: *2025-H 5715, An Act Relating to Public Officers and Employees – Retirement System - Administration*

Chair Shanley:

I write with regard to 2025-H 5715, which would require the Retirement Board of the Employees' Retirement System of Rhode Island (the "Retirement Board" and "ERSRI", respectively) to publicly stream meetings, then post the video recordings on ERSRI's webpage. This act creates a similar requirement for "any subsidiary" of the Board "that specializes in state investments."¹

Traditionally, Treasury has made live audio recordings of the Retirement Board accessible to members of the public unable to attend meetings in person. While ERSRI did not save or post those audio recordings, it filed meeting minutes consistent with the mandates of the state Open Meetings Act.

Beginning in February, however, I implemented a new Treasury policy that accomplishes the same legislative aims this bill pursues: Treasury has begun filming all Retirement Board meetings and posting archival footage on YouTube. This open government initiative helps ensure transparency of the Board's discussions and makes use of modern technologies so future meetings remain accessible. The first full Board meeting was filmed and posted following the February 13, 2025 Board meeting. Going forward, these meetings can be accessed under the "Quick Links" section of ERSRI's homepage – ERSRI.org – or on YouTube at "ERSRI-video-library."

Respectfully,

James A. Diossa
General Treasurer

¹ ERSRI maintains several subcommittees, none of which expressly specialize in state investment. Investment of state pension assets is overseen by the State Investment Commission. See R.I. Gen. Laws § 35-10-1, *et seq.* Commission meetings are duly noticed and made accessible to the public.