



**RHODE ISLAND LEAGUE  
OF CITIES AND TOWNS**

*Distinctive Communities  
Powerful Alliance*

March 19, 2026

The Honorable Evan P. Shanley, Chair  
House State Government and Elections  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 7678 – CREATING A SPECIAL JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION  
ON CITY AND TOWN AFFAIRS**

Chair Shanley and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, we are writing to express our strong support for House Bill 7678, a priority piece of legislation of the League, that would create a nine-member Joint Commission to strengthen coordination between state and local government.

The Commission is intended to serve as a dedicated forum for collaboration among municipal leaders, the General Assembly, and the Executive Branch. Its work would include reviewing and recommending policies to improve municipal governance, identifying and addressing obstacles that affect local operations, facilitating early consultation on state legislation or regulations that impact municipalities, and producing findings and recommendations aimed at improving municipal efficiency and public service delivery. By providing a structured mechanism for dialogue and collaboration, this Commission will promote better communication, align policy priorities, and enhance Rhode Island's overall capacity for effective public administration.

We would like to thank Chairman Casey and the bill's co-sponsors for their thoughtful engagement and commitment to advancing this important legislation. Their leadership reflects a shared dedication to strengthening partnerships between state and local officials and improving public service delivery across Rhode Island.

The League respectfully encourages the Committee to advance House Joint Resolution 7678 and looks forward to working collaboratively with all stakeholders to ensure its successful implementation.

Thank you for consideration of our perspective.

Sincerely,

Randy R. Rossi  
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House State Government and Elections Committee