



May 14, 2026

The Honorable Senator Louis P. DiPalma, Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
Rhode Island State Senate  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

RE: SENATE BILL 2090 - AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES - OPTIONAL RETIREMENT FOR MEMBERS OF POLICE FORCE AND FIREFIGHTERS

Chair DiPalma and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, we wish to express our concerns regarding Senate Bill 2090, 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 encourages policymakers to carefully evaluate the potential long-term fiscal implications of this proposal prior to enactment. A clear and comprehensive understanding of the financial impact will help ensure that the intent of the legislation can be achieved while continuing to responsibly manage municipal resources and maintain the stability of local pension systems.

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 Senate Finance Committee