

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 2102 - 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 are writing to express our concern regarding Senate Bill 2102, 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.

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,



Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of Senate Finance Committee