



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 2374 - AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES -- RETIREMENT SYSTEM -- ADMINISTRATION

Chair DiPalma and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, we are writing to provide testimony regarding Senate Bill 2374.

The League appreciates the intent behind this legislation and recognizes the importance of ensuring that Rhode Island's public employees, particularly our dedicated educators, receive fair and meaningful retirement benefits in recognition of their service to our students and communities. We extend our sincere gratitude to teachers and education professionals across the state for their continued commitment and hard work on behalf of Rhode Island's children.

While we support the spirit of honoring public service, the League must respectfully express concern regarding the fiscal and structural implications of Senate Bill 2374 for municipalities and local taxpayers. Changes to retirement benefit calculations, even when well-intentioned, have the potential to impact long-term actuarial assumptions and may result in increased employer contribution rates or added pressure on already constrained municipal budgets.

Cities and towns continue to navigate significant fiscal challenges, including rising personnel costs, infrastructure needs, and service demands. As such, any legislation that affects retirement system liabilities warrants careful review to ensure that it does not unintentionally shift additional long-term costs to local governments or reduce budget predictability.

The League respectfully urges the General Assembly to fully evaluate the fiscal impact of Senate Bill 2374 on both the state retirement system and municipal participation within it, and to ensure that any changes are accompanied by clear actuarial analysis and transparent cost projections.

Thank you for your consideration of the municipal perspective.

Sincerely,

Randy R. Rossi  
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of Senate Finance Committee