



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 2543 - AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES - RETIREMENT OF MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES

Chair DiPalma and Honorable Committee Members,

The Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns respectfully submits this letter in strong support of Senate Bill 2543, a League priority piece of legislation that will help strengthen municipal capacity and ensure that cities and towns have the tools necessary to effectively and efficiently deliver essential public services to residents.

This proposal increases the allowable reemployment threshold for retired members of the system from seventy-five (75) days or six hundred thirty (630) hours to ninety (90) working days or the equivalent of six hundred thirty (630) hours in a calendar year without interruption of pension benefits.

The League supports this adjustment as a practical and measured update that provides municipalities with greater flexibility to address short-term staffing needs, seasonal demands, and unexpected workforce shortages. Many cities and towns continue to face challenges in recruiting and retaining qualified personnel across a range of essential services. Allowing a modest increase in post-retirement work capacity helps municipalities temporarily fill critical gaps while maintaining continuity of operations and service delivery to residents.

Importantly, this change preserves the underlying structure and intent of the retirement system while offering a narrow and reasonable enhancement that reflects current workforce realities. The League also appreciates the continued protections within the statute that ensure pension benefits are appropriately managed and that service beyond the established threshold does not result in additional pension credit or contributions.

For these reasons, the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns offers its support for this legislation and appreciates the opportunity to provide input on matters that impact municipal operations and workforce stability across the state.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony on this important matter

Sincerely,

Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of Senate Finance Committee