



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 2835 - AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES --
RETIREMENT SYSTEM -- ADMINISTRATION

Chair DiPalma and Honorable Committee Members,

The League appreciates the intent of Senate Bill 2835 and recognizes and values the commitment to ensuring that Rhode Island's educators and public employees receive fair and appropriate retirement benefits in recognition of their dedicated service to the state and its communities.

While the League supports the underlying goal of maintaining a fair and sustainable retirement system, we wish to express concern regarding the potential long-term fiscal implications associated with changes to pension benefit calculations, including adjustments to the applicable compensation periods used in determining retirement benefits.

Given the interconnected nature of education funding and municipal budgeting in Rhode Island, even changes that are not directly administered at the local level may have indirect but meaningful impacts on long-term employer contribution rates and overall fiscal planning. As such, the League respectfully encourages careful consideration of the long-term financial implications associated with any enhancement or modification of retirement benefit structures.

Ensuring full transparency regarding actuarial impacts will be important for policymakers and local officials as they work to maintain the fiscal stability of both the retirement system and the municipal and education budgets that support it.

The Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns appreciate the opportunity to provide input on this legislation and remains committed to working collaboratively with the General Assembly, educators, and all stakeholders to support both the well-being of public employees and the long-term fiscal sustainability of local government systems throughout the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Randy R. Rossi".

Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of Senate Finance Committee