



State of Rhode Island
Office of the General Treasurer

James A. Diossa
General Treasurer

13 May 2026

The Honorable Louis DiPalma
Chair, Senate Committee on Finance

The Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Finance

RE: *2026-S 2839 – An Act Relating to Public Officers and Employees – Retirement System – Contributions and Benefits*

Chair DiPalma:

I write with regard to 2026-S 2839, which would include the Deputy Chief of Inspection and Inspectors in the Department of Corrections' ("DOC") pension system. Currently, the Deputy Chief of Inspection and Inspectors are classified as state employees and receive benefits through the Employees' Retirement System of Rhode Island ("ERSRI") as any other state employee.

Corrections' employees in ERSRI still receive retirement benefits consistent with any other member of the state system. However, those in the DOC system receive a comparatively better benefit, such as an earlier retirement age. Employer and employee contribution rates are higher in the DOC system to properly finance these retirement benefits.

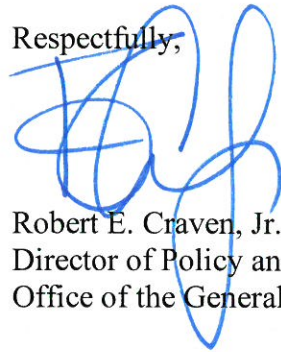
As drafted, the proposed legislation would have a prospective impact on members of ERSRI working at the DOC with the title Deputy Chief of Inspection or Inspector. As such, this class of employees would accrue time under the DOC plan going forward and could apply time previously accrued under ERSRI to their retirement under the DOC plan pursuant to a statutory formula. Since this legislation purports to enhance pension benefits of two employee classifications within the DOC, it will have an impact on the state pension system.

Consistent with Rhode Island law, legislation concerning the pension system should not be approved without the benefit of a pension impact note. *See* R.I. Gen. Law § 36-10-39 (Legislation impacting the pension system "shall *not* be approved by the general assembly unless an explanatory statement or note . . . is appended to the proposed legislation which actuarially calculates . . . the projected twenty (20) year cost of the proposed legislation") (emphasis added). This independent assessment will clarify any impact the proposed legislation may have on both

the State budget, and the sustainability of the pension system. The Chairperson of the Senate Finance Committee – with the approval of the Senate President – can request a pension impact note concerning proposed legislation originating in the Senate. *See* R.I. Gen. Law § 36-10-39.

Please feel free to reach out by email at Robert.CravenJr@treasury.ri.gov or by phone at (401) 330-0661 with any further questions.

Respectfully,



Robert E. Craven, Jr.
Director of Policy and Intergovernmental Affairs
Office of the General Treasurer

cc: The Honorable Matthew LaMountain