



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 2842 - AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION - TEACHERS' RETIREMENT

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 2842, while also acknowledging and appreciating the clear intent of the legislation to recognize and support the dedicated service of Rhode Island's educators.

We fully recognize and value the important contributions that teachers and education professionals make to students, schools, and communities across the state. Their commitment to public service is foundational to the success of our education system, and we appreciate efforts intended to honor that service through retirement security provisions.

However, the League has concerns regarding the potential long-term fiscal and structural implications of changes to retirement eligibility within the state pension system. While Senate Bill 2842 is a statewide initiative, municipalities participate in and contribute to the Teachers' Retirement System, and adjustments to eligibility standards may have downstream effects on employer contribution rates and long-term actuarial assumptions that ultimately impact municipal and school budgets.

Because cities and towns are responsible for balancing local budgets while maintaining essential public services, including education, it is important that any changes affecting retirement eligibility be carefully considered within the broader context of system sustainability and long-term cost stability.

The League respectfully encourages continued dialogue among stakeholders as this proposal is evaluated, with careful attention to maintaining the financial health of the retirement system while also honoring the valuable service of Rhode Island educators.

We appreciate the intent behind Senate Bill 2842 and the recognition it provides to educators, and we look forward to working collaboratively with the General Assembly and other stakeholders as this legislation is considered.

Sincerely,

Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of Senate Finance Committee