



May 14, 2026

Dear Senate Finance Committee Member,

We are writing to express RI Council, 94 AFSCME's strong support for S-3251 / H-7390, "Rule of 90" legislation, which would allow state employees, municipal employees, and teachers to retire once they are 60 years old and have 30 years of service.

The pension reductions of 2005, 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011, and the freeze/elimination of state employees' longevity from collective bargaining has made state employment less attractive. Consequently, staffing shortages have become routine. RI Council 94, AFSCME has generally supported any/all legislation which would repair the damage done by multiple rounds of pension reductions.

Requiring state employees, municipal employees, and teachers to work until age 67 or have an early retirement reduction of up to 38% is extremely punitive. Especially when considering that many state and municipal employees' jobs are physically demanding.

Council 94 supports S-3251 / H-7390:

- Granting a moderately reduced early retirement age would act as a significant recruitment incentive.
- The costs if implementing the "Rule of 90" would be limited because many workers would not be able to afford to retire earlier or purchase retiree health care coverage.
- Private sector employees can start withdrawing from 401K accounts at age 59 and 1/2.

In closing, we respectfully ask you to support S-3251 / H-7390.

Sincerely,

Michael McDonald  
President

James A. Cenerini  
Legislative Affairs/Political Action Coordinator