



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 3251 - 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 write to respectfully offer testimony regarding Senate Bill 3251, which would establish an additional retirement eligibility pathway for teachers, state employees, and municipal employees, allowing retirement upon the earlier of attaining age sixty (60) with thirty (30) years of service or reaching the employee's existing retirement eligibility date under current law.

The League recognizes and appreciates the intent behind this legislation and the respect it extends to the long and dedicated service of Rhode Island's public employees, including teachers and municipal workers who have committed their careers to serving our communities.

However, the League has concerns regarding the potential fiscal and operational implications of expanding retirement eligibility in this manner. While the proposal may not create an immediate mandate, changes to retirement eligibility criteria have long-term actuarial consequences that can directly impact employer contribution rates within the state's retirement system, including the Municipal Employees' Retirement System. Earlier retirement eligibility can increase the duration of benefit payments, contribute to increased unfunded liability exposure, and may place upward pressure on future municipal budget obligations.

In addition to the fiscal considerations, municipalities may also experience workforce planning challenges, including the potential for accelerated retirements, loss of experienced personnel, and increased difficulty in maintaining staff continuity in critical local government functions. These impacts may vary across communities but are particularly significant in smaller municipalities with limited staffing capacity.

Given these uncertainties, the League Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 22-12-3, the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns is noting possible municipal fiscal impacts and requesting a fiscal note for the Committee's consideration. Such analysis would provide policymakers with necessary information to fully understand the long-term financial implications of the proposal.

The League remains committed to working collaboratively with the General Assembly on policies that support public employees while ensuring the long-term fiscal stability of municipal government and the retirement systems that serve them. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R.R. Rossi', written in a cursive style.

Randy R. Rossi  
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of Senate Finance Committee