

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** Wendy Riordan <wendy\_reading@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2026 5:01 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** Rule of 90

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I urge you to support S 3251 and H 7390, legislation that would establish the "Rule of 90" for members of Rhode Island's public employee retirement systems.

Rhode Island public employees have experienced significant pension reductions over the past decade, particularly following the 2011 pension changes. Today, many teachers, state workers, and municipal employees must work years longer to avoid retirement penalties, even after decades of public service.

S 3251 and H 7390 would provide a fairer and more flexible retirement option by allowing employees to retire at age 60 with 30 or more years of service, without penalty. This proposal builds on the current Rule of 95 framework while recognizing the realities facing long-serving public employees.

This legislation would help restore fairness for workers who have consistently contributed toward their pensions throughout their careers. Many public employees are not covered by Social Security and rely heavily on their pension benefits for retirement security. The Rule of 90 would provide important flexibility for workers facing health concerns, caregiving responsibilities, or physically and emotionally demanding working conditions.

The proposal would also support recruitment and retention in public education and public service. At a time when Rhode Island faces staffing shortages in schools and public sector positions, providing a more reasonable retirement pathway helps strengthen the workforce for the future.

Rhode Island's latest Revenue Estimating Conference projections show the state expects approximately \$233 million more in available revenue across the current and upcoming budget years than previously forecast. At a time when the state's fiscal outlook is improving, Rhode Island can responsibly invest in retirement security for the public employees who keep our schools, communities, and public services running.

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