



State of Rhode Island  
Office of the General Treasurer

**James A. Diossa**  
General Treasurer

7 May 2024

The Honorable Marvin Abney  
Chair, House Committee on Finance

The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance

**RE:** *2024-H 7916 – An Act Relating to Towns and Cities – Public Safety Employees – Relief of Injured and Deceased Fire Fighters and Police Officers*

Chair Abney:

I write with regard to 2024-H 7916, which would extend injured-on-duty (“IOD”) benefits to correctional officers employed by the Department of Corrections (“DOC”). Currently, correctional officers are not eligible for IOD benefits. Since this legislation purports to expand benefits for certain members of the Employees’ Retirement System of Rhode Island (“ERSRI”), it will likely have an adverse impact on the 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. Laws § 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 House Finance Committee – with the approval of the Speaker of the House – can request a pension impact note concerning proposed legislation originating in the House. *See* R.I. Gen. Laws § 36-10-39.

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

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Craven, Jr.', written over the word 'Respectfully,'.

Robert E. Craven, Jr.  
Director of Legislative Affairs  
Office of the General Treasurer

cc:           The Honorable Stephen Casey