**Title 45  
Towns and Cities**

**Chapter 21  
Retirement of Municipal Employees**

**R.I. Gen. Laws § 45-21-54**

**§ 45-21-54. Reemployment of retired members.**

Any retired member of the system is permitted to reenter the service of the system for not more than seventy-five (75) working days in a calendar year without interruption of pension benefits. Pension payments, however, are suspended when that period is exceeded. This seventy-five-day (75) rule shall not apply to police officers, as defined in § 28-9.2-3, for the purposes of their working private details, paid for by a nongovernmental entity. If the retired member continues in service beyond the seventy-five-day (75) period (with his or her annuity temporarily suspended) the member is not eligible for pension credit for the additional service, nor is the member required to make pension contributions for this service; provided, that any retired member of the system is permitted to serve as an elected city or town council member or school committee member and continues to be eligible for and receive the retirement allowance for service other than that as a council member or school committee member.

History of Section.  
P.L. 1971, ch. 65, § 1; P.L. 1980, ch. 17, § 1; P.L. 2022, ch. 182, § 1, effective June 27, 2022; P.L. 2022, ch. 183, § 1, effective June 27, 2022.

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\*\*\*The Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association (RIPCA) requests that this 75-day rule be eliminated for police and fire personnel for all purposes/assignments not just private details to address the ever-challenging personnel crisis in public safety related positions…

\*\*\*There is no moratorium in the current MERS program to hire a public safety official who comes from a private pension system, municipal non-participating MERS pension system or federal government or other State. There seems to be a distinct standard for an employee who has worked in a MERS related community and met all his/her statutory pension guidelines from earning an ancillary pension in the MERS or State system. We are finding that are younger 21st century workforce have no sustainable desire to work nights, holidays, and weekends to include a career in public safety career. We are losing the opportunity to retain educated, trained, and able person(s) to remain in the workforce by preventing them to garner a primary pension and continue in an ancillary position covered by the State pension or MERS program for an aged adage commonly known as “double dipping” that essentially presents no financial impact to the taxpayer.

We need these ancillary positions filled to avoid a present and growing personnel crisis…

This recommendation is to avoid losing trained professionals from leaving local and state public safety positions. Notably, these professionals are not having any difficulty finding work in the private sector, and we are simply clinging to an old-misnomer and allowing trained professionals to leave the local and state government workforce.