

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1044**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the Year Two Thousand Nine**  
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An Act relative to the annual allowance for widows and widowers of certain public employees..

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 12 of Chapter 32 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting in line 212 after the words “two hundred and  
3 fifty dollars a month” the following words:-

4 or five hundred dollars a month, whichever is applicable to such spouse.

5 SECTION 2. Section 12 of Chapter 32 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
6 amended by inserting after line 221 the following paragraph:-

7 Beginning July first, two thousand and nine, the normal monthly member-survivor  
8 allowance provided for under this option to a spouse of a deceased member shall not be less than  
9 five-hundred dollars for members of the state teachers’ and state employees’ retirement system.

10 The provisions of this paragraph shall take effect for the members of a retirement system of any  
11 other political subdivision by a majority vote of the board of such system and by the local  
12 legislative body. For the purpose of this paragraph, local legislative body shall mean a town  
13 meeting for a town system, the city council subject to the provisions of its charter for a city

14 system, the county retirement board advisory council for a county system, the regional retirement  
15 board advisory council for a regional system, the district members for a district system and the  
16 governing body of an authority for an authority system. Acceptance shall be deemed to have  
17 occurred upon the filing of a certification of such vote with the commission.

18 SECTION 3. Section 101 of Chapter 32 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
19 amended by inserting in line 8 after the words “six thousand dollars,” the following words:-

20 or in the amount of nine thousand dollars in a retirement system accepting the  
21 supplemental annual allowance provided for by this section.

22 SECTION 4. Section 101 of Chapter 32 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
23 further amended by inserting at the end thereof the following words:-

24 Any retirement system may accept the supplemental annual allowance, provided for by  
25 this section and fixed at the rate of nine thousand dollars, by a majority vote of the board of each  
26 such system, subject to the approval of the legislative body. For the purposes of this section,  
27 “legislative body” shall mean, in the case of a city, the city council in accordance with its charter,  
28 in the case of a town, the town meeting, in the case of a county, the county retirement board  
29 advisory council, in the case of a region, the regional retirement board advisory council, in the  
30 case of a district, the district members, and, in the case of an authority, the governing body.  
31 Acceptance shall be deemed to have occurred upon the filing of a certification of such votes with  
32 the commission. For purposes of this section, the state teachers’ and state employees’ retirement  
33 systems shall be deemed to have accepted the supplemental annual allowance provided for by  
34 this section.