

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 18**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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The Honorable Steven James  
*Clerk of the House of Representatives*  
State House, Room 145  
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

*January 3, 2011*

Dear Mr. James:

[Recommendation Header Text]

1.) AN ACT RELATIVE TO RETIREMENT BOARD CONTINUING EDUCATION  
AND STIPENDS

[Recommendation Narrative Text]

Sincerely,

[Filer Name]  
*[Filer Title]*

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So much of the recommendations of the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission (House, No. 15) as relates to retirement board continuing education and stipends (House, No. 18). Public Service.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand Eleven  
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An Act relative to retirement board continuing education and stipends.

*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 20 of Chapter 32 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following sub-division:-

3           (7) During each full term of service retirement board members, including members of  
4 retirement boards established pursuant to Chapter 34B, shall be required to undertake eighteen  
5 hours of training provided, however, that no less than three hours take place each year and no  
6 more than nine hours take place in any single year.

7           Such training shall consist of nine hours sponsored by the commission which shall  
8 include, at a minimum, the topics of fiduciary responsibility, ethical conduct, and conflict-of-  
9 interest, and nine hours of training on topics prescribed by the commission provided by the  
10 Massachusetts Association of Contributory Retirement Systems or other local, state, regional and  
11 national organizations recognized by the commission as having expertise in retirement issues of  
12 importance to retirement board members or other entities, as the commission may from time to  
13 time determine.

14           The commission shall arrange for at least eighteen sessions during each year for members  
15 to complete this requirement. In addition, the commission shall schedule additional sessions or  
16 otherwise make accommodations to insure that members are afforded the maximum opportunity  
17 to complete this requirement.

18           The commission shall provide retirement board with a statement of completion of  
19 education form on or before December 31 of each year. The board shall provide the forms to  
20 their members. The form shall set forth the training as required by this sub-division the member  
21 has undertaken during that year. Board members shall submit the completed form to the  
22 commission by January 31 of the year following. The commission shall provide the member with  
23 a summary of his or her status regarding the completion of this requirement by March 1 of each  
24 year.

25           Failure to successfully complete the requirements of this sub-division shall prohibit a  
26 board member from serving beyond the conclusion of the term in which the failure took place. In  
27 the event the non-complying member is an ex officio member or a second member of a board the  
28 appointing authority for the second member shall appoint a different individual to serve on the  
29 board, provided, however, that in the case of the replacement of an ex officio member the  
30 individual shall be experienced in the field of finance or auditing and provided, further, that in  
31 regional retirement systems non-complying members shall be replaced in the same manner as is  
32 set forth for the selection of said members.

33           Each retirement board shall notify all prospective board members and board members of  
34 the requirement to complete education requirements at the time of receiving information about  
35 seeking election to a retirement board, or prior to being appointed to a retirement board.

36           The commission shall annually notify board members of the requirement to complete  
37 continuing education.

38           The requirements established by this sub-division shall become effective for calendar  
39 year 2012.

40           Section 2: Subdivision (6) of section 20 of said chapter 32, as so appearing, is hereby  
41 amended by striking out paragraph (a) and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:-

42           (a) The elected and appointed members of a city, town, county, regional, district or  
43 authority retirement board upon acceptance of the appropriate legislative body shall receive a  
44 stipend which shall not be less than \$3,000 per year nor exceed \$7,500 per year, provided, that  
45 the stipend shall be paid from funds under the control of the board as shall be determined by the  
46 public employee retirement administration commission; provided further, that the ex-officio  
47 member of a city, town, county, district or authority retirement board upon the acceptance of the  
48 appropriate legislative body shall receive a stipend of not more than \$7,500 per year in the  
49 aggregate for services rendered in the active administration of the retirement system.  
50 Notwithstanding the other provisions of this paragraph, no individual serving on more than one  
51 retirement board shall receive more than \$7,500 per annum.