SENATE DOCKET, NO. 2086 FILED ON: 1/27/2017

SENATE . . . . . No. 2045

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bruce E. Tarr

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to retirement benefits for veterans.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
Bruce E. Tarr	*First Essex and Middlesex*	
Donald F. Humason, Jr.	*Second Hampden and Hampshire*	*1/31/2017*
Danielle W. Gregoire	*4th Middlesex*	*2/1/2017*
Michael D. Brady	*Second Plymouth and Bristol*	*1/31/2017*
Colleen M. Garry	*36th Middlesex*	*2/2/2017*
Ann-Margaret Ferrante	*5th Essex*	*2/2/2017*
Joan B. Lovely	*Second Essex*	*2/3/2017*
Michael O. Moore	*Second Worcester*	*2/3/2017*
Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.	*12th Hampden*	*2/6/2017*
Patrick M. O'Connor	*Plymouth and Norfolk*	*2/28/2017*

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By Mr. Tarr, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2045) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Bruce E. Tarr, Donald F. Humason, Jr., Danielle W. Gregoire, Michael D. Brady and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to retirement benefits for certain veterans. Public Service.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)

An Act relative to retirement benefits for veterans.

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

SECTION 1. Paragraph (h) of subdivision (1) of section 4 of said chapter 32, as appearing in the 2014 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph :

Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter or any other general or special law, rule or regulation to the contrary, a member retired prior to July 24, 1996, in a retirement system as defined in section one who is a veteran , as defined Chapter 4 section 7, who served in the armed forces of the United States shall be entitled to credit for active service in the armed services of the United States; provided that such creditable service shall not be construed to include service for more than four years; and, provided further, that such creditable service shall not be allowed for any period of active service for which said veteran has received credit pursuant to paragraph (h) of subsection (1) of section 4 of chapter thirty-two of the General Laws and provided further, that the amount does not exceed the eighty percent allowed to retire. This act shall apply to Massachusetts National Guard and Active Reserve personnel, both former and present.

Creditable service time, both enlisted and commissioned, may be applied toward retirement on a ratio of five years guard service or five years active reserve service substitutable for each year of active service.

SECTION 2. For the retirement system of any political subdivision, the provisions of this act shall take effect on the effective date of this act by majority vote of the board of such system and by the local legislative body. For the purposes of this paragraph local legislative body shall mean a town meeting for a town system, the city council subject to the provisions of its charter for a city system, the county commissioners for a county system, the district members for a district system and the governing body of an authority for an authority system. Acceptance shall be deemed to have occurred upon the filing of a certification of such vote with the commissioner. Members retired prior to July 24, 1996 of a retirement system eligible for said creditable service under this act shall become eligible for said creditable service the month following the acceptance of this act by the local legislative body. Terms used in this act shall have the same meaning as those terms defined in section one of chapter thirty-two of the General Laws.

SECTION 3. Section 6 of chapter 116 of the acts of 2002 is hereby amended by striking out the last sentence.