

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**PRESENTED BY:**

*Alyson M. Sullivan*

*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 the retirement benefits of certain public safety employees.

**PETITION OF:**

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Alyson M. Sullivan</i>	<i>7th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/4/2021</i>
<i>Steven G. Xiarhos</i>	<i>5th Barnstable</i>	<i>2/23/2021</i>
<i>Michael J. Soter</i>	<i>8th Worcester</i>	<i>2/23/2021</i>
<i>Paul J. Donato</i>	<i>35th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>

By Ms. Sullivan of Abington, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3800) of Alyson M. Sullivan and others relative to the retirement benefits of certain public safety employees. Public Service.

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court  
(2021-2022)**

An Act relative to the retirement benefits of certain public safety 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. Subdivision (3) of section 21 of chapter 32 of the General Laws, as  
2 appearing in the 2018 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after paragraph (g) the  
3 following paragraph:—

4 (h) the review and analysis of information required pursuant to section 26A as it relates to  
5 the employees contribution rate changes and benefit changes. Such analysis shall focus on the  
6 contributions made by members and the normal cost of benefit, plus any other liabilities  
7 determined by the actuary to be a result of benefit changes pursuant to said section 26A.  
8 Beginning January 1, 2022, and every 5 years thereafter, the actuary shall forward their analysis  
9 to the respective system.

10 SECTION 2. Subdivision (1) of section 22 of said chapter 32, as so appearing, is hereby  
11 amended by striking out paragraph (b) and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:—

12                         (b) The treasurer or other disbursing officer in charge of payroll in any governmental unit  
13                         to which a system pertains, and the treasurer or other disbursing officer in charge of payrolls in  
14                         any free public library the employees of which are eligible for membership in a system, shall,  
15                         upon written notice from the board:

16                         (i) withhold on each pay day 5 per cent of the regular compensation of each employee  
17                         who is a member in service of the system, which is received on the day by the member on  
18                         account of service rendered to the member on or after January 1, 1946, and not later than the date  
19                         of their attaining the maximum age for their group, in the case of an employee who entered the  
20                         service of the commonwealth or a political subdivision thereof prior to January 1, 1975;

21                         (ii) withhold on each pay day 7 per cent of the regular compensation of each employee  
22                         who is a member in service of the system, which is received on the day by the member on  
23                         account of service rendered by the member on or after January 1, 1975, and not later than the  
24                         date of their attaining the maximum age for their group, in the case of an employee who entered  
25                         the service of the commonwealth or a political subdivision thereof on or after January 1, 1975,  
26                         but prior to January 1, 1984;

27                         (iii) withhold on each pay day 8 per cent of the regular compensation of each employee  
28                         who is a member in service of the system, which is received on the day by the member on  
29                         account of service rendered by the member on or after January 1, 1984, and not later than the  
30                         date of their attaining the maximum age for their group, in the case of an employee who entered  
31                         the service of the commonwealth or a political subdivision thereof on or after January 1, 1984,  
32                         but before July 1, 1996;

33 (iv) withhold on each pay day 9 per cent of the regular compensation of each employee  
34 who is a member in service of the system, which is received on the day by the member on  
35 account of service rendered by the member on or after July 1, 1996, and not later than the date of  
36 their attaining the maximum age for their group, in the case of an employee who entered the  
37 service of the commonwealth or a political subdivision thereof on or after July 1, 1996;

38                         (v) withhold on each pay day 12 per cent of the regular compensation of each employee  
39                         who is a member of the department of state police appointed pursuant to section 10 of chapter  
40                         22C, and is a member in service of the system, which is received on the day by the member on  
41                         account of service rendered by the member on or after July 1, 1996, and not later than the date of  
42                         their attaining the maximum age for their group, in the case of an employee who is eligible to  
43                         receive benefits provided for pursuant to section 26A.

44 In the case of any teacher the withholding shall be made upon written notice from the  
45 school committee, board of trustees or other employing authority, to the treasurer or other  
46 disbursing officer of the political subdivision by which the teacher is employed.

47 SECTION 3. Said chapter 32 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
48 section 26 the following section:—

49       Section 26A. (1) As used in this section, the term “public safety officer” shall, unless the  
50      context clearly requires otherwise, mean any member of a municipal police department as  
51      classified to be in Group 4 pursuant to paragraph (g) of subdivision (2) of section 3 or sheriff or  
52      employee of a sheriff’s department so classified; provided, the employee of a sheriff’s  
53      department is not a member of the state employees’ retirement system.

54                   (2) Any public safety officer employed as of the effective date of this section shall be  
55                   retired by the appropriate retirement board upon their attaining age 65; provided, that any such  
56                   public safety officer who has performed service as a public safety officer for not less than 20  
57                   years, including creditable service granted by paragraph (h) of subdivision (1) of section 4 and  
58                   who has not attained the age of 65 may elect to retire pursuant to this section. Any public safety  
59                   officer employed after the effective date of this section shall be retired by the appropriate  
60                   retirement board upon their attaining age 65; provided, that any such public safety officer who  
61                   has performed service as a public safety officer for not less than 20 years, including creditable  
62                   service granted by paragraph (h) of subdivision (1) of section 4 and who has not attained the age  
63                   of 65 shall be retired pursuant to this section.

64                   (3) Upon retirement pursuant to this section, a member shall receive a retirement  
65                   allowance to become effective on the date of the member's retirement. Payments under such  
66                   retirement allowance shall be made as provided for in sections 12 and 13 and the normal yearly  
67                   amount shall be equal to 60 per cent of the average annual rate of the member's regular  
68                   compensation received by such member during any period of 3 consecutive years of creditable  
69                   service for which such rate of compensation was the highest, or on the average annual rate of  
70                   regular compensation received by such member during the period or periods, whether  
71                   consecutive or not, is constituting the member's last 3 years of creditable service preceding the  
72                   member's retirement, whichever is the greater; provided, that the total amount of the allowance  
73                   shall be increased by 1/12 of 3 per cent for each full month of service in excess of 20 years of  
74                   service; provided, however, that such retirement allowance shall in no case exceed 75 per cent of  
75                   such regular compensation. Any such member retired pursuant to this section who is a veteran as  
76                   defined in section 1 shall receive an additional retirement allowance of \$15 for each year of

77 creditable service or fraction thereof; provided, that the total amount of the additional retirement  
78 allowance shall not exceed \$300.

79 (4) Any provision of sections 1 to 28, inclusive, which are inconsistent with this section,  
80 shall not apply to any member so classified under this section; provided, however, that any  
81 member with less than 20 years of creditable service as a public safety officer upon retirement  
82 shall be retired in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs (a) and (b) of subdivision (2) of  
83 section 5 and subject to the limitations set forth in paragraphs (c) and (d) of said subdivision (2)  
84 and shall be based on the member's age and number of years and full months of creditable  
85 service on the date the retirement allowance becomes effective.

86 (5) The actuary, acting pursuant to paragraph (h) of subdivision (3) of section 21, shall  
87 require each board to obtain certain information from each member eligible for the retirement  
88 benefit authorized pursuant to this section, including the name, date of birth, prior contribution  
89 rate, date of hire and any other information required by the actuary for the purposes of the report  
90 required under said paragraph (h).

91 SECTION 4. Any member of a retirement system who meets the definition of public  
92 safety officer as defined in section 26A of chapter 32 of the General Laws on the effective date  
93 of this act may elect in writing to participate in the alternative public safety retirement benefit  
94 provided for pursuant to said section 26A within 180 days of the effective date this act. Any such  
95 election shall become effective on the first day of the next pay period following such election,  
96 and shall constitute a waiver of any retirement benefits provided pursuant to section 5 or section  
97 10 of said chapter 32. Any member making such an election shall be required to make a  
98 minimum of 3 years of retirement contributions at the rate of 12 per cent; provided, however,

99 that if the member chooses to retire before the member has made 3 years of contributions at 12  
100 per cent, the member shall pay into the annuity savings fund or have deducted from their  
101 retirement allowance an amount equal to the contributions that would have been made had such  
102 member remained in service for 3 years at the rate of regular compensation from which the  
103 member retired. The election by an eligible member to participate in the alternative public safety  
104 retirement benefit provided for under said section 26A shall be irrevocable.

105 SECTION 5. The additional contributions required under paragraph (b ½) of subdivision  
106 (1) of section 22 of chapter 32 of the General Laws shall not apply to any public safety officer as  
107 defined in section 26A of said chapter 32.