

HOUSE No. 5455

Substituted, on motion of Ms. Garlick of Needham, for a Bill regarding the disability pension for Scott O'Brien (House, No. 4753) [Local Approval Received]. December 29, 2022.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act regarding the disability pension for Scott O'Brien administered by the Boston retirement board.

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. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the Boston
2 retirement board shall increase the accidental disability retirement allowance payable to Scott
3 O'Brien, a retired officer of the police department of the city of Boston who, as a result of
4 injuries sustained while in the performance of his duties on January 16, 2004, is totally and
5 permanently incapacitated from performing the essential duties of a police officer.

6 (b) The annual amount of pension payable to Scott O'Brien shall be equal to the regular
7 rate of compensation which would have been paid had he continued in service as a police officer
8 of the city of Boston at the grade held by him at the time of his retirement until his death or
9 reaching mandatory retirement age, whichever comes first. All amounts paid under this act shall
10 be non-taxable to the extent allowable under state and federal law.

11 (c) Notwithstanding section 91A of chapter 32 of the General Laws or any other general
12 or special law to the contrary, Scott O'Brien's annual earnings, when added to his retirement

allowance, may annually earn up to 1/2 the amount of his retirement allowance without refund penalty.

(d) Upon attaining the mandatory retirement age for a police officer of the city of Boston, Scott O'Brien shall receive a pension pursuant to section 7 of said chapter 32, a yearly amount of pension equal to 80 per cent of the annual rate of the compensation he was receiving on the day before he reaches the mandatory retirement age for a police officer in the city of Boston.

(e) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the benefits granted herein shall be funded and administered by the Boston retirement board, consistent with and subject to chapter 32 of the General Laws.

SECTION 2. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, Scott O'Brien shall be entitled to receive indemnification for all hospital, medical and related expenses that have been or may be incurred after the date of his retirement as a result of the injuries sustained by him while in the performance of his duties on January 16, 2004, in accordance with sections 100 and 100B of chapter 41 of the General Laws.

SECTION 3. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the Boston retirement board shall forthwith pay to said Scott O'Brien the amount credited to him as accumulated total deductions in the annuity savings fund of the Boston retirement board as of the effective date of this act.

SECTION 4. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, if Scott O'Brien was married upon retirement, upon his death, if he is still married to the spouse he was married to upon retirement then, should his spouse to whom he was married on the date upon retirement survive him, the retirement board of the city of Boston shall pay to the spouse an annuity in the

amount of 75 per cent of the amount of the pension which otherwise would have been payable to Scott O'Brien until the spouse's death. The pension benefits provided for in this section and section 1 shall be subject to section 103 of chapter 32 of the General Laws.

SECTION 5. In the event that both Scott O'Brien and his spouse to whom he was married on the date upon retirement die before their children reach the age of 18 the payments that would otherwise have been made to his spouse shall be payable, per stirpes, to each surviving children under the age of 18; provided, however, that payments shall continue for the benefit of a surviving child 18 years or older who, on or before the date of death of Scott O'Brien or his spouse to whom he was married on the date upon retirement, whichever is later, had been medically determined to be permanently physically or mentally incapacitated from earning or for the benefit of a child under the age of 22 who is enrolled as a full-time student as determined by the criteria of the educational institution.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect as of January 31, 2022.