

HOUSE No. 4012

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bruce J. Ayers

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 ensuring access to neurological disorder screenings for firefighters.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Bruce J. Ayers</i>	<i>1st Norfolk</i>	<i>1/14/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 4012

By Representative Ayers of Quincy, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4012) of Bruce J. Ayers relative to access to neurological disorder screenings for firefighters. Financial Services.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)

An Act relative to ensuring access to neurological disorder screenings for firefighters.

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

1 Chapter 48 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

2 Section 91. (a)(1) A firefighter employed as a full-time paid employee of a fire
3 department of a city, town, fire or water district or the commonwealth, shall be provided a
4 neurological disorder screening examination conducted by a physician not less than 3 years after
5 the start of their employment as a firefighter and every 3 years thereafter during the course of
6 their employment.

7 (2) This section shall also apply to members of the: (i) Massachusetts military reservation
8 fire department; (ii) 104th fighter wing fire department; and (iii) Devens fire department
9 established pursuant to chapter 498 of the acts of 1993.

10 (3) For the purposes of this section, the following shall be fire districts, the: (i)
11 Massachusetts Port Authority; (ii) Massachusetts Military Reservation; (iii) Barnes Air National

Guard Base; and (iv) Devens Regional Enterprise Zone established pursuant to chapter 498 of the acts of 1993.

(b) The examination shall include screenings for, at a minimum and when applicable, the following neurological disorders: (i) Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis also known as ALS; (ii) Alzheimer's disease; (iii) brain tumor; (iv) cerebral palsy; (v) dementia; (vi) epilepsy; (vii) Parkinson's disease; (viii) multiple sclerosis; and (ix) stroke.

(c) All costs associated with screenings pursuant to chapters 32A, 175, 176A, 176B, 176G and 176I provided under this section shall be borne by the firefighter's health care benefits plan or program provided by the firefighter's employer. No co-payment, deductible, coinsurance or any out-of-pocket expense shall be required for such examinations.