

HOUSE No. 5499

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bud L. Williams

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 to include teachers from the Springfield Empowerment Zone in the Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Bud L. Williams</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>	<i>5/28/2026</i>
<i>Alice Hanlon Peisch</i>	<i>14th Norfolk</i>	<i>5/29/2026</i>

HOUSE No. 5499

By Representative Williams of Springfield, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Bud L. Williams and Alice Hanlon Peisch for legislation to authorize teachers employed by the Springfield Empowerment Zone to become members of the Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System. Public Service.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to include teachers from the Springfield Empowerment Zone in the Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System.

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

1 Subsection (i) of section 1J of chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2024
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following 2 sentences:-

3 Teachers employed by the Springfield Empowerment Zone Partnership, Inc. shall be
4 members of the teachers' retirement system pursuant to chapter 32 and a teacher's service for the
5 Springfield Empowerment Zone Partnership, Inc. shall be creditable service pursuant to said
6 chapter 32. For the purposes of this subsection, the word "teacher" shall mean a person who
7 works on a basis of not less than half-time service in a position that would make them eligible to
8 be a member of the teachers' retirement system if their position were performed in a public
9 school.