

SENATE No. 1918

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

John C. Velis

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 veteran allowance for public retirees.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>John C. Velis</i>	<i>Hampden and Hampshire</i>	
<i>Dennis C. Gallagher</i>	<i>8th Plymouth</i>	<i>1/17/2025</i>
<i>Kelly W. Pease</i>	<i>4th Hampden</i>	<i>3/21/2025</i>
<i>John J. Marsi</i>	<i>6th Worcester</i>	<i>7/7/2025</i>

SENATE No. 1918

By Mr. Velis, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1918) of John C. Velis and Dennis C. Gallagher for legislation relative to the veteran allowance for public retirees. Public Service.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 1753 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to the veteran allowance for public retirees.

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. Paragraph (b) of subdivision (2) of section 5 of chapter 32 of the General
2 Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is amended by inserting in line 142 after the
3 word “dollars” the following words:- or upon acceptance of paragraph (b 1/2) fifty dollars.

4 SECTION 2. Paragraph (b) of subdivision (2) of section 5 of said chapter 32, as so
5 appearing, is further amended by deleting in line 145 the words “in any case” and inserting in
6 place thereof the following words:- or upon acceptance of paragraph (b 1/2) one thousand
7 dollars.

8 SECTION 3. Subdivision (2) of section 5 of said chapter 32 is hereby further amended by
9 inserting the following new paragraph:-

10 (b 1/2) Upon acceptance of this provision by a retirement system, any member of Group
11 1 or group 2 or Group 4, who is a veteran as defined in section one, shall receive, in lieu of
12 paragraph (b), an additional yearly allowance of fifty dollars for each year of creditable service
13 or fraction thereof; provided, that the total amount of said additional retirement allowance shall
14 not exceed one thousand dollars in any case. Acceptance of this provision by a retirement system
15 shall be by a majority vote of the board of each such system, subject to the approval of the
16 legislative body. For the purposes herein, “legislative body” shall mean, in the case of a city, the
17 city council in accordance with its charter, in the case of a town, the town meeting, in the case of
18 a county, the county retirement board advisory council, in the case of a region, the regional
19 retirement board advisory council, in the case of a district, the district members, and, in the case
20 of an authority, the governing body. Acceptance shall be deemed to have occurred upon the fil-
21 ing of a certification of such votes with the commission. For purposes herein, the state teachers’
22 and state employees’ retirement systems shall be deemed to have accepted this provision.

23 SECTION 4. Paragraph (e) of subdivision (2) of section 7 of said chapter 32, as
24 appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is amended by inserting in line 160 after the dollar
25 amount “\$15” the following words:- or upon acceptance of paragraph (f) \$50 and is further
26 amended by inserting in line 162 after the dollar amount “\$300” the following words:- or upon
27 acceptance of paragraph (f) \$1,000.

28 SECTION 5. Subdivision (2) of section 7 of said chapter 32 is hereby further amended by
29 inserting at the end thereof the following new paragraph:-

30 (f) Upon acceptance of this provision by a retirement system, any member of Group 1 or
31 Group 2 or Group 4, who is a veteran as defined in section one, shall receive, in lieu of paragraph

32 (b), an additional yearly allowance of forty-five dollars for each year of creditable service or
33 fraction thereof; provided, that the total amount of said additional retirement allowance shall not
34 exceed one thousand dollars in any case. Acceptance of this provision by a retirement system
35 shall be by a majority vote of the board of each such system, subject to the approval of the
36 legislative body. For the purposes herein, "legislative body" shall mean, in the case of a city, the
37 city council in accordance with its charter, in the case of a town, the town meeting, in the case of
38 a county, the county retirement board advisory council, in the case of a region, the regional
39 retirement board advisory council, in the case of a district, the district members, and, in the case
40 of an authority, the governing body. Acceptance shall be deemed to have occurred upon the
41 filing of a certification of such votes with the commission. For purposes herein, the state
42 teachers' and state employees' retirement systems shall be deemed to have accepted this
43 provision.

44 SECTION 6. Paragraph (c) of subdivision (2) of section 26 of said chapter 32, as
45 appearing, is amended by deleting in line 131 the dollar amount "\$15" and inserting in place
46 thereof the following dollar amount: - \$50 and is further amended by deleting in line 134 the
47 dollar amount \$300 and inserting in place thereof the following dollar amount:- \$1,000.

48 SECTION 7. The provisions of this act shall be prospective from the date of acceptance
49 of this act and shall not entitle a member who is entitled to the benefits provided under this act,
50 to any retroactive benefits.