

SENATE No. 1919

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 retirement of Greg Heath, a former firefighter of the city of Westfield.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>John C. Velis</i>	<i>Hampden and Hampshire</i>	
<i>Norman J. Orrall</i>	<i>12th Bristol</i>	<i>5/15/2025</i>

SENATE No. 1919

By Mr. Velis, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1919) of John C. Velis (with approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation relative to the retirement of Greg Heath, a former firefighter of the city of Westfield. Public Service. [Local Approval Received.]

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 2369 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to the retirement of Greg Heath, a former firefighter of the city of Westfield.

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. Notwithstanding chapter 32 of the General Laws or any other general or
2 special law to the contrary the Westfield retirement board shall retire Greg Heath under section 7
3 of chapter 32 based upon any condition of impairment of health caused by Parkinson's Disease
4 which it determines was incurred as a result of his employment.

5 SECTION 2. The payments provided for in this act shall only be made after said member
6 has been examined by a medical panel, pursuant to section 6 of chapter 32 of the General Laws,
7 which has certified by a majority of the medical panel physicians that said member is mentally or
8 physically incapacitated from further duty, that such incapacity is likely to be permanent, and
9 that such incapacity is such as might be the natural and proximate result of Parkinson's Disease;
10 provided, however, that the public employee retirement administration commission may, upon

11 request, waive such medical panel examination if the member has previously been examined by
12 a medical panel and is receiving a disability benefit as of the effective date of this act. The
13 commission shall promptly notify the retirement system of such waiver.

14 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon September 26, 2020.