

SENATE No. 3275

Senate, October 5, 2026 -- Substituted as a new draft (Senator Dooner) for the Senate Bill relative to the appointment of retired police officers as special police officers in the town of Dighton (Senate, No. 2939).

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act authorizing the appointment of retired police officers as special police officers in the town of Dighton.

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 any general or special law to the contrary, the board of
2 selectmen in the town of Dighton may appoint, as the police chief considers necessary, retired
3 police officers of the town of Dighton as special police officers to perform police details or
4 police duties arising therefrom or during the course of the police detail work, whether or not
5 related to the detail work. Police officers appointed pursuant to this act shall have previously
6 served as regular police officers and voluntarily retired in good standing based on
7 superannuation pursuant to chapter 32 of the General Laws. A special police officers appointed
8 pursuant to this act shall not be subject to the maximum age restrictions applied to regular police
9 officers pursuant to said chapter 32 but shall not be eligible to serve as a special police officer if
10 once the special police officer has reached the age of 70. An officer seeking appointment as a
11 special police officer under this act shall pass a medical examination by a physician or other
12 certified professional chosen by the town to determine that the officer is capable of performing

the essential duties of special police officer, the cost of which shall be borne by the officer, prior to performing police details.

SECTION 2. Special police officers appointed pursuant to this act shall not be subject to chapter 31 of the General Laws, sections 85H and 85H1/2 of chapter 32 of the General Laws, sections 99A, 100 and 111F of chapter 41 of the General Laws or chapter 150E of the General Laws. Special police officers appointed pursuant to this act shall be subject to chapter 151A of the General Laws.

SECTION 3. When performing the duties under section 1, special police officers appointed under this act shall have the same power to make arrests and to perform other police functions as do regular police officers of the town of Dighton.

SECTION 4. Special police officers shall be reappointed annually, subject to removal by the board of selectmen of the town of Dighton at any time with 14 days' written notice except in cases where the police chief determines that immediate action is necessary to protect the public safety. Upon request of the special police officer, the police chief shall provide reasons for removal in writing.

SECTION 5. Special police officers appointed pursuant to this act shall be subject to the rules and regulations, policies and procedures and requirements of the police department and police chief of the town of Dighton, including restrictions on the type of detail assignment, requirements regarding medical examinations to determine continued capacity to perform the duties of a special police officer, requirements for training, requirements for firearm licensing and qualification and requirements regarding uniforms and equipment. The cost of compliance with such requirements shall not be borne by the Town and shall be borne by the officer. Special

35 police officers appointed pursuant to this act shall not be subject to section 96B of chapter 41 of
36 the General Laws.

37 SECTION 6. Special police officers appointed pursuant to this act shall be sworn before
38 the town clerk of the town of Dighton who shall keep a record of all such appointments.

39 SECTION 7. Appointment as a special police officer pursuant to this act shall not entitle
40 any officer to assignment to any specific detail or type of detail.

41 SECTION 8. Retired police officers serving as special police officers under this act shall
42 be subject to the limitations on hours worked and on payments to retired town employees
43 pursuant to paragraph (b) of section 91 of chapter 32 of the General Laws.

44 SECTION 9. This act shall take effect upon its passage.