

SENATE No.

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 Veterans' Bonus Division.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

John C. Velis

Hampden and Hampshire

Bridget Plouffe

9th Plymouth

SENATE No.

[Pin Slip]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to the Veterans’ Bonus Division.

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. Subsection (a) of section 78 of chapter 10 of the General Laws, as
2 appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting at the end thereof the
3 following words:-

4 As used in this section, the term “Korean Emergency” shall mean the period on or after
5 June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955.

6 As used in this section, the term “Persian Gulf War” shall mean the period on or after
7 August 2, 1990 to April 10, 1991.

8 As used in this section, the term “Vietnam Conflict” shall mean the period on or after
9 July 1, 1958 to May 17, 1975.

10 As used in this section, the term “World War II” shall mean the period on or after
11 September 16, 1940 to July 25, 1947.

12 SECTION 2. Subparagraph (1) of subsection (b) of said section 78 of said chapter 10 of
13 the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by inserting after the word
14 “served”, in line 16, the following words:- “, or is currently serving,”

15 SECTION 3. Subparagraph (1) of subsection (b) of said section 78 of said chapter 10 of
16 the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking out, in lines 19 through
17 23, the words “have been in the commonwealth for a period of not less than 6 months before the
18 time of the person's entry into the service” and inserting in place thereof the following words:-
19 “be the commonwealth”

20 SECTION 4. Subparagraph (5) of said subsection (b) of said section 78 of said chapter 10
21 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking
22 out, in line 44, the word “Medal” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- “Medal, or
23 equivalent Expeditionary Medal,”

24 SECTION 5. Said subparagraph (5) of said subsection (b) of said section 78 of said
25 chapter 10 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking out, in
26 lines 48 through 52, the words “have been in the commonwealth for a period of not less than 6
27 months immediately before the time of the person's entry into service” and inserting in place
28 thereof the following words:- be the commonwealth

29 SECTION 6. Said subsection (b) of said section 78 of said chapter 10 of the General
30 Laws, as so appearing is hereby further amended by inserting at the end thereof the following
31 subparagraph:-

32 (6) Upon application, as provided in this section and as specified in rules and regulations
33 established by the treasurer, there shall be allowed and paid out of the treasury of the

34 commonwealth, without appropriation, the sums specified in such rules and regulations to each
35 person who has served in the armed forces of the United States in active service as part of World
36 War II, the Korean Emergency, the Vietnam War or the Persian Gulf War; provided, however,
37 that the domicile of a person on account of whose service the application is filed shall be the
38 commonwealth; and provided further, that any veteran discharged or released under other than
39 honorable conditions due to sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or HIV status
40 based on the veteran's DD-214 form or equivalent documentation shall be eligible for a bonus
41 under this section.

42 SECTION 7. Subsection (e) of said section 78 of said chapter 10 of the General Laws, as
43 so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking out the fifth and sixth sentences.

44 SECTION 8. Subsection (e) of said section 78 of said chapter 10 of the General Laws, as
45 so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking out, in line 100, the word “section” and
46 inserting in place thereof the following word:- act

47 SECTION 9. Subsection (e) of said section 78 of said chapter 10 of the General Laws, as
48 so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking out, in lines 106-107, the word “designed”
49 and inserting in place thereof the following word:- designated

50 SECTION 10. Subsection (g) of said section 78 of said chapter 10 of the General Laws,
51 as so appearing, is hereby further amended by inserting after the word “service”, in line X, the
52 following words:- “during the enlistment period”

53 SECTION 11. Chapter 731 of the acts of 1945, as amended by chapter 210 of the acts of
54 1946, is hereby repealed.

55 SECTION 12. Chapter 210 of the acts of 1946 is hereby repealed.

56 SECTION 13. Chapter 581 of the acts of 1946, as amended by chapter 210 of the acts of
57 1946, is hereby repealed.

58 SECTION 14. Chapter 440 of the Acts of 1953 is hereby repealed.

59 SECTION 15. Chapter 646 of the acts of 1968 is hereby repealed.

60 SECTION 16. Chapter 325 of the acts of 1969 is hereby repealed.

61 SECTION 17. Section 16 of chapter 130 of the acts of 2005 is hereby repealed.

62 SECTION 18. Section 2 shall take effect on July 1, 2026.