

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

John J. Cronin, (BY REQUEST)

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 increasing pre-employment requirements for appointment as a Massachusetts police officer.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Dennis Galvin

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

90 Concord Road, Westford MA

SENATE No.

By Mr. Cronin (by request), a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Dennis Galvin for legislation to increase pre-employment requirements for appointment as a Massachusetts police officer. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act increasing pre-employment requirements for appointment as a Massachusetts police officer.

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. The first paragraph of section 96 of chapter 41 of the General Laws is
2 hereby amended by inserting after the words “Chapter 6E” the following words:- “or who has
3 not completed 60 college semester credits at an accredited college, junior or state community
4 college or university in Criminal Justice or Police Science or a related field, or in a related field
5 of study approved by The Massachusetts Peace Officer Standard and Training Commission,”

6 SECTION 2. Section 58 of chapter 31 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking
7 out the paragraph 4 (lines 53 to 59) and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:-

8 “As a prerequisite to appointment to the position of regular police officer in a city, or in a
9 town where the civil service law and rules are applicable to such position, a person shall have
10 completed 60 college semester credits at an accredited college, junior or community college or

11 university in Criminal Justice, Police Science or a related field or in any related field of study
12 approved by The Massachusetts Peace Officer Standard and Training Commission.”

13 SECTION 3. Section 4(f)(1) of chapter 6 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
14 striking out the first paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:-

15 “(f)(1) The division of police certification and the municipal police training committee
16 established in section 116 of chapter 6 shall jointly establish minimum certification standards for
17 all officers that shall include, but not limited to: (i) attaining the age of 21; (ii) the attainment of
18 60 credits from an accredited institution of higher education in a field of study approved by the
19 POST Commission; (iii) successful completion of the basic training program approved by the
20 municipal police training committee; (iv) successful completion of a physical and psychological
21 fitness evaluation approved by the commission; (v) successful completion of a state and national
22 background check, including, but not limited to, fingerprinting and a full employment history;
23 provided, that if the applicant has been previously employed in law enforcement in any state or
24 United States territory or by the federal government, the applicant's full employment record,
25 including complaints and discipline, shall be evaluated in the background check; (vi) passage of
26 an examination approved by the commission; (vii) possession of current first aid and
27 cardiopulmonary resuscitation certificates or equivalent, as determined by the commission; (viii)
28 successful completion of an oral interview administered by the commission; and (ix) being of
29 good moral character and fit for employment in law enforcement, as determined by the
30 commission.