

JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICE
2025-2026 (194th) BILL SUMMARY

Bill Number: H.2965

Title: *An Act providing prescription drug cost reimbursements to elderly governmental retirees*

Sponsor(s): Rep. Alan Silvia (*Fall River*)

Hearing Date: June 4, 2025

Reporting Deadline: August 3, 2025

Prior History:

2023-24 (H.2658): Ordered to a House Study

2021-22 (H.2773): Ordered to a House Study

2019-20 (H.2365): Ordered to a House Study

2017-18 (H.1448): Ordered to a House Study

2015-16 (H.2411): Ordered to a House Study

CURRENT LAW:

M.G.L. c. 32A § 2 – Definitions: Specifically, “elderly governmental retirees” are defined as “employees of the commonwealth, housing and redevelopment authorities, mosquito control projects and technicians of the National Guard retired prior to the effective date of contracts or agreements issued under this chapter who are receiving a pension or retirement allowance from the commonwealth sufficient from which a monthly insurance premium may be withheld; and employees of counties, cities, towns and districts including "teachers" as defined in section one of chapter thirty-two, retired prior to the effective date of contracts or agreements issued under the provisions of chapter thirty-two B as, or when, adopted by the political subdivision from which they are retired, and who are receiving a pension, annuity or retirement allowance sufficient from which a monthly insurance premium may be withheld”.

M.G.L. c. 32A § 24 – State retiree benefits trust fund: Establishes the state retiree trust fund. The fund’s assets will be invested in the pension reserves investment trust fund. The purpose of the fund is for depositing, investing, and disbursing amount set aside to meet liabilities of the state employees’ retirement system for health care and other non-pension benefits for retired members.

SUMMARY:

The bill amends section 2 of chapter 32A by adding to the definition of “elderly governmental retirees” that the term will include any retiree employee over the age of 70 who has been retired for five years.

The bill amends chapter 32A by adding a new section, 10C. For any elderly governmental retiree of any municipality that provides prescription drug benefits, the retiree will be entitled to reimbursement from the state retiree benefits trust fund to reduce the costs of their prescription drugs. The reduction of the cost will be no less than 25 percent of any co-payment amount paid by the retiree for the prescription drugs.

The amends section 24 of chapter 32A by adding language that states that a municipality providing prescription drug coverage to an elderly governmental retiree must participate in the state retiree benefits trust fund using the procedures outlined in proposed section 10C.