

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

Bill Number: H.2956

Title: *An Act relative to the veteran allowance for public retirees*

Sponsor(s): Rep. Adam J. Scanlon (*North Attleborough*)

Hearing Date: June 25, 2025

Reporting Deadline: August 24, 2025

Prior History:

2023-24 (H.2626): Reported favorably; Accompanied S.1753; Referred to SWM
2021-22 (H.2749): Reported favorably; Accompanied by S.1794; Referred to HWM
2019-20 (H.2346): Reported favorably; Accompanied by S.1503; Referred to HWM
2017-18 (H.1435): Reported favorably; Accompanied by S.1393; Referred to HWM
2015-16 (H.3285): Reported favorably; Accompanied by S.1336; Referred to HWM

Similar Matters: S.1918 (Velis – Identical); H.2834 (Gallagher – Identical)

CURRENT LAW:

M.G.L. c. 32 § 5 – Superannuation retirement: Outlines the conditions for retirement allowance, the formulas to calculate the allowance, and other general provisions pertaining to retirement allowances. Specifically, paragraph (b) of subsection (2) states that any member of group 1, 2, or 4 that is a veteran as defined in section 1 of this chapter will receive an additional yearly retirement allowance of fifteen dollars for each year of creditable service. The total amount of this additional allowance cannot exceed three hundred dollars in any case.

M.G.L. c. 32 § 7 – Accidental disability retirement: Section 7 of chapter 32 outlines the requirements for accidental disability retirement, how the benefits are calculated, and what benefits the member's beneficiaries will receive upon their death. Accidental disability due to a violent act injury is also in this section. Specifically, paragraph (e) of subdivision (2) states that any member of group 1, 2, or 4 who is a veteran as defined in section 1 of this chapter will receive an additional fifteen dollars of retirement allowance for each year of creditable service, not to exceed three hundred dollars. This paragraph will only take effect if it is accepted through a majority vote by the retirement system's board, subject to approval of the appropriate legislative body. The state employees' and teachers' retirement systems are to be considered as accepting this paragraph.

M.G.L. c. 32 § 26 – Retirement of officers in department of state police: This section contains the process of state police to receive accidental disability benefits and superannuation retirement. Specifically, paragraph (4) of subdivision (2) states that any member who is retired under this

section that is a veteran as defined in section 1 of this chapter will receive an additional yearly retirement allowance of fifteen dollars for each year of creditable service, not to exceed three hundred dollars.

SUMMARY:

This bill amends Chapter 32 Section 5. The bill adds a new subdivision paragraph b $\frac{1}{2}$.

Paragraph b $\frac{1}{2}$ states that upon acceptance of this provision by a retirement system, any member of Group 1 or Group 2 or Group 4, who is a veteran shall receive an additional yearly allowance of \$50 for each year of creditable service or fraction thereof. The total amount of additional retirement allowance shall not exceed \$1000. The allowance in this new paragraph shall be in lieu of the existing allowance in paragraph b. Acceptance of this provision by a retirement system shall be by a majority vote of the board of each such system, subject to the approval of the legislative body. For purposes herein, the state teachers' and state employees' retirement systems shall be deemed to have accepted this provision.

This bill amends Chapter 32 Section 7, whose subject matter is accidental disability retirement. Specifically, this bill adds the above new paragraph again to said section 7. If a retirement system pursuant to this section accepts the new paragraph it would increase the yearly allowance for a Group 1,2,4 veteran from \$15 for each year of creditable service to \$50 and increase the maximum amount of additional yearly allowance from \$300 to \$1,000.

This bill amends Chapter 32 Section 26 to allow the above increases to members in Group 3 who is an officer of the department of state police and a veteran.

The provisions of this act shall be prospective from the date of acceptance of this act and shall not entitle a member, who is entitled to the benefits provided under this act, to any retroactive benefits.