

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICE**  
**2025-2026 (194<sup>th</sup>) BILL SUMMARY**

**Bill Number:** H.2912

**Title:** *An Act further regulating the retirement benefits of certain public safety employees*

**Sponsor(s):** Rep. Paul McMurtry (*Dedham*)

**Hearing Date:** June 25, 2025

**Reporting Deadline:** August 24, 2025

**Prior History:**

2023-24 (H.2603): Ordered to a House Study

2021-22 (H.2730): Ordered to a House Study

**CURRENT LAW:**

*M.G.L. c. 32 § 21 – Supervision by public employee retirement administration:* Outlines the duties of the public employee retirement administration commission, duties of the actuary, promulgation and approval of rules and regulations, and the development of rehabilitation programs for disabled employees. Specifically, subdivision (3) outlines the duties of the actuary. These duties include approving the amount of allowances under the provisions of certain chapters, reviewing all actuarial valuation reports, preparing actuarial valuation reports for each system, preparing and submitting an annual report to the Legislature, and any other investigations the commission deems necessary.

*M.G.L. c. 32 § 22 – Methods of financing:* Specifically, subdivision (1) outlines the annuity savings fund requirements of each system. Paragraph (b) of this subdivision states that the treasurer or other position in charge of payroll must withhold certain amounts of employees' regular compensation when they receive written notice from the retirement board to do so.

**SUMMARY:**

This bill adds a section 26A to chapter 32. This new section defines Public Safety Officer as a probation officer; or trial court officer; or a police officer; or a corrections officer; or a firefighter; or an environmental police officer. Section 26A dictates that any public safety officer employed as of the effective date of this act shall be retired by the appropriate retirement board upon his attaining age sixty-five. Any public safety officer who has performed service as a public safety officer for not less than twenty years, including creditable service, and who has not

attained the age of sixty-five may elect to retire pursuant to the provisions of this subdivision. Payments under such retirement allowance shall be made as provided for in sections twelve and thirteen and the normal yearly amount shall be equal to sixty percent of the average annual rate of his regular compensation during any period of three consecutive years of creditable service for which such rate of compensation was the highest, or on the average annual rate of regular compensation received by such member during the period constituting his last three years of creditable service preceding his retirement. The total amount of the allowance shall be increased by one-twelfth of three percent for each full month of service in excess of twenty years of service, however it shall not exceed 75% of such regular compensation. Any such member retired under the provision of this subdivision who is a veteran shall receive an additional retirement allowance of fifteen dollars for each year of creditable service or fraction thereof; provided, that the total amount of said additional retirement allowance shall not exceed three hundred dollars in any case.

This bill amends Chapter 32 Section 21 by adding a new paragraph (g). This adds to the duties of the actuary section that the analysis under section 26A shall focus on the contributions made by members and the normal cost of benefit, plus any other liabilities determined by the actuary to be a result of such benefit changes under said section 26A.

This bill also amends subdivision (1) of Chapter 32 Section 22 by striking out paragraph (b) and inserting new language to include that 12% shall be withheld of the regular compensation each pay day of each employee who is eligible to receive benefits provided for in section 26A. However, in the case of any teacher such withholding shall be made upon written notice from the school committee, board of trustees or other employing authority, to the treasurer or other disbursing officer of the political subdivision by which such teacher is employed.

Any member of a retirement system who meets the definition of public safety officer as defined by section 26A of chapter 32 on the effective date of this act may elect in writing to participate in the alternative public safety retirement benefit provided under said section twenty-six A within 270 days of the date this act takes effect. Any member making such an election shall be required to make a minimum of three years' of retirement contributions at the rate of 12 percent; provided, however that if said member chooses to retire before he has made said three years of contributions at twelve percent, said member shall pay into the annuity savings fund or have deducted from his retirement allowance an amount equal to the contributions that would have been made had such member remained in service for three years at the rate of regular compensation from which he retired. The election by an eligible member to participate in the alternative public safety retirement benefit provided for under said section twenty-six A shall be irrevocable.