JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICE

2025-2026 (194th) BILL SUMMARY

Bill Number: H.2748

Title: *An Act relative to Option (D) beneficiaries*

Sponsor(s): Rep. Bruce J. Ayers (*Quincy*)

Hearing Date: June 25, 2025

Reporting Deadline: August 24, 2025

Prior History:

2023-24 (H.2431): Ordered to a House Study
2021-22 (H.2555): Ordered to a House Study
2019-20 (H.2164): Reported favorably, Accompanied by S.1534; Referred to HWM

Similar Matters: S.1868 (Friedman – Identical)

CURRENT LAW:

M.G.L. c. 32 § 12 – Options on retirement: Specifically, option (d) is the member survivor allowance. If a member elects to participate in this option, they must nominate a beneficiary that will receive life-time monthly payments if the member dies while still employed by the Commonwealth. The monthly allowance the beneficiary would receive is equal to the option (c) amount that the member would have received if they had retired at the time of their death.

SUMMARY:

This bill would amend option (d) of section 12 of chapter 32 by striking out the first paragraph and inserting new language. The new language would allow a member to nominate one or more eligible beneficiaries, rather than just one, who if such member dies before being retired shall receive a portion of the yearly amount of the option (c) allowance to which such member would have been entitled had his retirement taken place on the date of his death. In the event that multiple beneficiaries are nominated, the benefit will be calculated using the youngest beneficiary's age at the time of the member's death; provided that upon the death of a beneficiary, said beneficiary's portion shall be divided evenly among surviving beneficiaries.