

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

Bill Number: H.3978

Title: *An Act lieutenant deputy sheriff Brian McPherson disability pension*

Sponsor(s): Rep. Alyson M. Sullivan-Almeida (*Abington*)

Hearing Date: May 7, 2025

Reporting Deadline: July 7, 2025

Prior History:

2023-24 (H.5072): Ought not to pass (under joint rule 10); Recommitted to the Joint Committee on Public Service; Ordered to study

SUMMARY:

This bill directs the Boston retirement board to increase the accidental disability pension of Brian McPherson, a retired lieutenant deputy sheriff to the Suffolk county sheriff's department. The annual amount of pension paid will be equal to the amount he would have been paid if he had continued to serve as lieutenant deputy sheriff at the grade he held at the time of his retirement. Upon his death or reaching mandatory retirement age, whichever comes first, the amount will change to 80 percent of the rate he had been receiving the day before reaching the mandatory retirement age. Notwithstanding section 8 and 91A of chapter 32, Brian McPherson may annually earn up to one-half of his retirement allowance without penalty. He will be entitled to receive indemnification for all medical, hospital, and related expenses that have been incurred or may be incurred as a result of the injuries that he sustained on duty on May 13, 2008. The Boston retirement board will pay him the amount credited to his account as accumulated total deductions in their annuity savings fund as the effective date of this bill. If Brian McPherson was married at the time of his retirement and remains married to the same spouse at the time of his death, his spouse will receive a retirement allowance equal to 75 percent of the allowance he was receiving. If he and the spouse he was married to at the time of his retirement die and have surviving children under the age of 18, they will be paid in equal shares, the amount that would have been received by his surviving spouse. The payments may continue after the children turn 18 if they are full-time students (then the payments would cease once they turn 22) or if they are older than 22 and it has been determined that they are physically or mentally incapable of earning. This bill will take effect upon its passage.