

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

**Bill Number:** H.2891

**Title:** *An Act relative to pensions for children of public safety officers killed in the line of duty*

**Sponsor(s):** Rep. David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf (*Worcester*)

**Hearing Date:** May 28, 2025

**Reporting Deadline:** July 26, 2025

**Prior History:**

2023-24 (H.2850): Ordered to a House study

2021-22 (H.2711): Ordered to a House study

**Similar Matters:** S.1887 (Moore)

**CURRENT LAW:**

*M.G.L. c. 32 § 100 – Pensions to surviving spouses of firefighters, police officers, or corrections officers killed in the performance of duties:* If a firefighter, police officer, or corrections officer is killed in the line of duty, their surviving spouse will receive a retirement allowance equal to the salary the officer was receiving as regular compensation at the time of their death. If there is no surviving spouse, the children of the officer or firefighter will be paid \$312 each year in addition to 72 percent of the amount of the retirement allowance a surviving spouse would have received. Once the children have attained age 18 the payments will cease unless they have been determined to be incapacitated from earning or they are under age 22 and are a full-time student. The health presumptions in sections 94, 94A, and 94B will not be applicable to the death of any firefighter or officer for which a pension is being provided for by this section. The benefits provided under this section will be the alternative to other benefits provided by any other section in chapter 32.

**SUMMARY:**

The bill amends section 100 of chapter 32 by striking the entire current section and replacing it with language that change the pronouns to instead use the terms “firefighter”, “police officer”, or “corrections officer”. The proposed language adds a paragraph to the existing language. In the event that there is no surviving spouse at the time of the firefighter, police officer, or corrections officer’s death, a proportionate amount of the pension will be given to the legal guardian of each surviving child. The total amount of the pension that will be shared will equal the maximum salary for the position of the firefighter, police officer, or corrections officer regardless of if they had

attained that salary before their death. When the children turn 18, the payments to their guardian will cease and instead go to them.