

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

Bill Number: H.2842

Title: *An Act providing equity and fairness to POST-certified police officers disabled by cardiac disease*

Sponsor(s): Rep. Colleen M. Garry (*Dracut*)

Hearing Date: May 28, 2025

Reporting Deadline: July 26, 2025

Prior History:

2023-24 (H2532): Reported favorably; Accompanied S.1703; Referred to SWM

Similar Matters: S.1909 (Tarr); S.1895 (Oliveira – Identical); H.2841 (Garry – Identical)

CURRENT LAW:

M.G.L. c. 32 § 94 – Impairment of health caused by hypertension or heart disease, resulting in disability or death of paid fire or police department member; presumption: It will be presumed that if a uniformed member of a paid fire department or permanent member of a police department, or of the MBTA police force, the state police, the public works building police, any employee in the department of correction or a county correction facility whose regular duties entail the care and supervision of prisoners or criminally insane persons or defective delinquents, or to any permanent crash crewman, crash boatman, fire controlman, or assistant fire controlman employed at Logan Airport, members of the 104th fighter wing fire department, members of the Deven fire department pursuant to chapter 489 of the acts of 1993, or members of the Massachusetts military reservation fire department successfully passed a physical exam at the beginning of their employment without evidence of an impairment of their health due to hypertension or heart disease but eventually suffers from such health impairments that they are a result of the member's employment.

SUMMARY:

The bill amends section 94 of chapter 32 by adding members of the police force of the University of Massachusetts, the police force of the Massachusetts Port Authority, or of the police forces of the state universities and community colleges, or the office of environmental law enforcement of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, or the campus police of the Department of Mental Health to the list of members eligible for the hypertension and heart disease health presumption.