

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

Bill Number: H.2964

Title: *An Act providing for disability and death benefits for explosive device canine handlers and bomb technicians*

Sponsor(s): Rep. Alan Silvia (*Fall River*)

Hearing Date: June 2, 2025

Reporting Deadline: August 1, 2025

Prior History:

2023-24 (H.2969): Ordered to a House study
2021-22 (H.2772): Ordered to a House study
2019-20 (HD.4292): Referred to House Rules

CURRENT LAW:

M.G.L. c. 32 § 94B – Disability or death caused by certain conditions of cancer; paid fire member; presumption: Certain conditions of cancer that result in the total disability or death of a uniformed member of a paid fire department, or a member of the state police assigned to the fire investigation unit of the department of fire services, or a member of the state police K-9 unit, or to any permanent crash crewman, crash boatman, fire controlman or assistant fire controlman employed at the General Edward Lawrence Logan International Airport, members of the 104th fighter wing fire department, members of the Devens fire department established pursuant to chapter 498 of the acts of 1993 or members of the Massachusetts military reservation fire department will be presumed as suffered in the line of duty if their physical exam at the beginning of their employment did not show any evidence of cancer. The presumption will only apply if the cancer is the result from exposure to heat, radiation, or a known or suspected carcinogen as determined by the International Agency for Research on Cancer. A firefighter must have been serving for at least five years before the discovery of a qualifying condition. If they discover the condition after they have stopped serving, it must be within five years of the last date they served in order to be eligible under this section.

SUMMARY:

This bill amends section 94B of chapter 32 by adding explosive device canine handlers and bomb technicians to the list of members are eligible to apply for the cancer health presumption.