

Massachusetts House of Representatives Bill Summary

Bill #: H.2260 / S.1449

Title: An Act relative to firefighter residency

Sponsor: Rep. Kip Diggs / Sen. John Keenan

Committee: Municipalities and Regional Government

Hearing Date: June 24, 2025

Similar matter: H.2335 extends residency requirements for public safety personnel employed by the city of Newton

Current Law: Chapter 41 Section 99A of MGL requires members of the regular police or fire departments and fire alarm division of a city or town, after August 1, 1978, to reside within 15 miles of the limits of said city or town. Such distance shall be measured from the closest borders limits of said city or town in which said member is employed to the closest border limits of the city or town in which said member lives. This section allows for a local ordinance or bylaw, or provision of a collective bargaining agreement, to provide for additional residency restrictions for these members.

Chapter 150E of MGL concerns labor relations for public employees.

Summary: This legislation replaces the current law with new language that authorizes a city or town to increase the 15-mile residency limit under a collective bargaining agreement that has been negotiated in accordance with the law governing labor relations for public employees.

The bill would delete references to local ordinances, by-laws or collective bargaining agreements superseding the provisions of the existing Section 99A.

According to the sponsor's office, this bill replaces the existing law with new language that allows the employees of non-civil service departments the right to collectively bargain residency limits.