

Massachusetts House of Representatives Bill Summary

Bill #: H.2332

Title: An Act relative to COVID-19 complications for public safety employees

Sponsor: Rep. Adam Scanlon

Committee: Municipalities and Regional Government

Hearing Date: July 22, 2025

Current Law: Chapter 41 of the Mass. General Laws concerns officers and employees of cities, towns and districts.

Section 100 governs the indemnification of police officers, firemen and persons aiding them; actions for intentional or negligent injuries inflicted upon same. Section 100B concerns the indemnification of retired police officers and firefighters in cities having a Plan D or Plan E form of government, that has accepted the provisions of the law.

The law authorizes a police officer or firefighter to apply for disability retirement, or upon their death then upon application of the surviving spouse, or next of kin, to pay for all reasonable hospital, medical and surgical, chiropractic, nursing, pharmaceutical, prosthetic and related expenses and reasonable charges for podiatry incurred by such police officer or fire fighter after his retirement.

Chapter 43 of the General Laws concerns city charters. A Plan D form of city government consists of a city council with 7 or 9 members, one of whom shall be mayor, and a city manager. Plan E cities have a city council with either 7 or 9 members, and a mayor elected by and from the city council, along with an administrative officer called the city manager.

Summary: The bill adds a new section (100C) to Chapter 41 which authorizes the indemnification of police officers or firefighters for reasonable hospital, medical and surgical, chiropractic, nursing, pharmaceutical, prosthetic and other related expenses and reasonable charges incurred after their retirement relating to COVID-19 or its variant contracted as a work-related illness.

No person could be indemnified unless their application had been approved by a panel consisting of (a) the chairman of the retirement board of the city or town, (b) the city solicitor, town counsel or other officer having similar duties or a person designated in writing by such solicitor, counsel, or officer to act for him, and (c) such physician selected by agreement of the city or town manager and the retiree's physician,

Upon receipt of an application, the panel would need to certify:

- (1) that the expenses for which indemnification is sought were the natural and proximate result of Covid-19 or its variant contracted as a work-related illness;
- (2) that such expenses were incurred after the acceptance of this section;
- (3) that the hospital, medical and surgical, chiropractic, nursing, pharmaceutical, and/or prosthetic to which such expenses relate were rendered within six months before the filing of the application; and
- (4) that such expenses are reasonable under all the circumstances.