

HOUSE No. 2581

By Mr. Jones of North Reading, petition of Bradley H. Jones, Jr., and others relative to the annual allowance for widows and widowers of certain public employees under the retirement law. Public Service.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Bradley H. Jones, Jr. Michael R. Knapik
John P. Fresolo

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE ANNUAL ALLOWANCE FOR WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS OF CERTAIN PUBLIC EMPLOYEES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 12 of Chapter 32 of the General Laws, as
2 most recently amended by Chapter 143 of the acts of 2005, is hereby
3 amended by inserting in line 212 after the words “two hundred and
4 fifty dollars a month” the following words:—or five hundred dollars
5 a month, whichever is applicable to such spouse.

1 SECTION 2. Section 12 of Chapter 32 of the General Laws, as
2 appearing in the 2004 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 inserting after line 221 the following paragraph:—

4 Beginning July 1, 2007, the normal monthly member-survivor
5 allowance provided for under this option to a spouse of a deceased
6 member shall not be less than five-hundred dollars for members of
7 the state teachers’ and state employees’ retirement system. The pro-
8 visions of this paragraph shall take effect for the members of a
9 retirement system of any other political subdivision majority vote of
10 the board of such system and by the local legislative body. For the
11 purpose of this paragraph, local legislative body shall mean a town
12 meeting for a town system, the city council subject to the provisions
13 of its charter for a city system, the county retirement board advisory

14 council for a county system, the regional retirement board advisory
15 council for a regional system, the district members for a district
16 system and the governing body of an authority for an authority
17 system. Acceptance shall be deemed to have occurred upon the
18 filing of a certification of such vote with the commission.

1 SECTION 3. Section 101 of Chapter 32, as 80, is hereby amended
2 by inserting in line 8 after the words “six thousand dollars,” the
3 following words:— or in the amount of eight thousand dollars in a
4 retirement system accepting the supplemental annual allowance pro-
5 vided for by this section.

1 SECTION 4. Section 101 of Chapter 32 of the General Laws, as
2 so appearing, is hereby further amended by inserting at the end
3 thereof the following:—

4 Any retirement system may accept the supplemental annual
5 allowance, provided for by this section and fixed at the rate of eight
6 thousand dollars, by a majority vote of the board of each such
7 system, subject to the approval of the legislative body. For the pur-
8 poses of this section, “legislative body” shall mean, in the case of a
9 city, the city council in accordance with its charter, in the case of a
10 town, the town meeting, in the case of a county, the county retire-
11 ment board advisory council, in the case of a region, the regional
12 retirement board advisory council, in the case of a district, the dis-
13 trict members, and, in the case of an authority, the governing body.
14 Acceptance shall be deemed to have occurred upon the filing of a
15 certification of such votes with the commission. For purposes of
16 this section, the state teachers’ and state employees’ retirement sys-
17 tems shall be deemed to have accepted the supplemental annual
18 allowance provided for by this section.