

# SENATE NO. 846

## **AN ACT** RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF JUDGES IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTIES AND SURVIVORS BENEFITS

*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. Chapter 32 of the General Laws is hereby amended by the adding the following new  
2 section:

3 Section 65K Pension; Death of Judge in Performance of Duties; Survivor's Benefits

4 In the event that that a Judge or Justice of any Massachusetts Court dies as a result of other than  
5 natural causes in the performance of his/her duties, the judge's designated survivors shall receive  
6 maximum retirement benefits, as if the Judge was fully vested, served the maximum number of years  
7 and reached the age of 70. For the purposes of this statute, "in the performance of his/her duties" shall  
8 include, but shall not be limited to: judicial assignments in any courthouse or other venue, such as  
9 hospitals or jails, used to conduct judicial business; to Emergency Judicial Response System  
10 assignments; to approved voluntary or assigned education programs or other assignment within the  
11 scope of his/her employment as a judge or justice. This statute shall apply to any judge or justice who  
12 deceased after January 2002. Benefits shall be effective at the date of death.