

HOUSE No. 2584

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Michael F. Rush

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act Relative To Treating Veterans Equally Under The Pension Laws.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Kevin G. Honan

17th Suffolk

Michael F. Rush

10th Suffolk

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 2723 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT RELATIVE TO TREATING VETERANS EQUALLY UNDER THE PENSION LAWS.

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 1 of chapter 32 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2002
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 121, the words “sections one to
3 twenty-eight inclusive”, and inserting in place thereof the following words: - “this chapter”.

4 SECTION 2. Said section 1 is hereby further amended by striking out, in line 299, the words
5 “sections one to twenty-eight, inclusive”, and inserting in place thereof the following words: -
6 “this chapter”.

7 SECTION 3. Said section 1 is hereby further amended by striking out, in line 306, the words
8 “sections one to twenty-eight inclusive”, and inserting in place thereof the following words: -
9 “this chapter”.

10 SECTION 4. Said section 1 is hereby further amended by striking out, in line 493 to 494, the
11 words “sections one to twenty-eight, inclusive”, and inserting in place thereof the following
12 words: -“this chapter”.

13 SECTION 5. Paragraph (h) of subdivision (1) of section 4 of chapter 32 of the General Laws, as
14 so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out the fourth paragraph, and inserting in place
15 thereof the following paragraph: -

16 “Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter, including the provisions of sections 3
17 and 65D, or any other general or special law, rule or regulation to the contrary, a member in
18 service of any retirement system governed by the provisions of this chapter who served
19 honorably in the armed forces of the United States shall be entitled to credit for active service in
20 the armed services of the United States; provided, however, that such active service shall not be
21 credited until such member has paid into the annuity savings fund of such system, in one sum or
22 in installments, upon such terms and conditions as the board may prescribe, makeup payments,
23 for each year of creditable service sought, of an amount equal to the ten percent of the regular
24 annual compensation of the member when said member entered the retirement system; and,

25 provided further that such creditable service shall not be construed to include service for more
26 than four years provided further, that such creditable service shall not be allowed for any period
27 of active service for which said member has received credit pursuant to paragraph (h) of
28 subsection (1) of section 4 of chapter thirty-two of the General Laws or for which said member
29 receives a federal military pension. This act shall apply to Massachusetts National Guard and
30 Active Reserve personnel, both former and present. Creditable service time, both enlisted and
31 commissioned may be applied toward retirement on a ratio of five years guard service or five
32 years active reserve service substitutable for each year of active service.”

33 SECTION 6. Section 3 of [chapter 71](#) of the acts of 1996 is hereby amended by striking
34 out the second paragraph, as amended by section 2 of chapter 468 of the acts of 2002, and
35 inserting in place thereof the following paragraph: -

36 Members in service of a retirement system eligible for said creditable service under this
37 act shall make application for said creditable service not earlier than the date of becoming
38 eligible and not later than 180 days after being notified by the retirement board of their eligibility
39 after becoming vested in the retirement system, or for currently eligible members, within 180
40 days of the acceptance of this act by the local legislative body.