

HOUSE No. 5060

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Rob Consalvo

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 adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act regarding the disability pension for Richard Lopez.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Rob Consalvo</i>	<i>14th Suffolk</i>	<i>9/17/2024</i>

HOUSE No. 5060

By Representative Consalvo of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5060) of Rob Consalvo (with the approval of the mayor and city council) that the city of Boston retirement board be authorized to increase the accidental disability retirement allowance payable for Richard Lopez, a retired firefighter of the fire department of said city. Public Service. [Local Approval Received.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act regarding the disability pension for Richard Lopez.

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. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the Boston
2 retirement board shall increase the accidental disability retirement allowance payable to Richard
3 Lopez, a retired firefighter of the fire department of the city of Boston who, as a result of injuries
4 sustained while in the performance of his duties on June 10, 2006, is totally and permanently
5 incapacitated from performing the essential duties of a firefighter.

6 (b) The annual amount of pension payable to Richard Lopez shall be equal to the regular
7 rate of compensation which would have been paid had he continued in service as a firefighter of
8 the city of Boston at the grade held by him at the time of his retirement until his death or
9 reaching mandatory retirement age, whichever comes first. All amounts paid under this act shall
10 be non-taxable to the extent allowable under state and federal law.

11 (c) Notwithstanding Sections 8 and 91A of chapter 32 of the General Laws or any other
12 general or special law to the contrary, Richard Lopez's annual earnings, when added to his
13 retirement allowance, may annually earn up to one-half the amount of his retirement allowance
14 without refund penalty.

15 (d) Upon attaining the mandatory retirement age for a firefighter of the city of Boston,
16 Richard Lopez shall receive a pension pursuant to section 7 of said chapter 32, a yearly amount
17 of pension equal to 80 percent of the annual rate of the compensation he was receiving on the
18 day before he reaches the mandatory retirement age for a firefighter in the city of Boston.

19 (e) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the benefits granted herein
20 shall be funded and administered by the Boston retirement board, consistent with and subject to
21 chapter 32 of the General Laws.

22 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, Richard Lopez
23 shall be entitled to receive indemnification for all hospital, medical and related expenses that
24 have been or may be incurred after the date of his retirement as a result of the injuries sustained
25 by him while in the performance of his duties from June 10, 2006, in accordance with sections
26 100 and 100B of chapter 41 of the General Laws.

27 SECTION 3. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the Boston
28 retirement board shall forthwith pay to said Richard Lopez the amount credited to him as
29 accumulated total deductions in the annuity savings fund of the Boston Retirement Board as of
30 the effective date of this act.

31 SECTION 4. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, if Richard
32 Lopez was married upon retirement, upon his death, if he is still married to the spouse he was

33 married to upon retirement then, should his spouse to whom he was married on the date upon
34 retirement survive him, the retirement board of the city of Boston shall pay to the spouse an
35 annuity in the amount of 75 percent of the amount of the pension which otherwise would have
36 been payable to Richard Lopez until the spouse's death. The pension benefits provided for in this
37 section and section 1 shall be subject to section 103 of chapter 32 of the General Laws.

38 SECTION 5. In the event that both Richard Lopez and his spouse to whom he was
39 married on the date upon retirement die before their children reach the age of 18 the payments
40 that would otherwise have been made to his spouse shall be payable, per stirpes, to each
41 surviving children under the age of 18; provided, however, that payments shall continue for the
42 benefit of a surviving child 18 years or older who, on or before the date of death of Richard
43 Lopez or his spouse to whom he was married on the date upon retirement, whichever is later, had
44 been medically determined to be permanently physically or mentally incapacitated from earning
45 or for the benefit of a child under the age of 22 who is enrolled as a full-time student as
46 determined by the criteria of the educational institution.

47 SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon its passage.