

SENATE No. 2192

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Michael J. Rodrigues

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 authorizing the town of Westport to assess additional amounts of real estate and personal property taxes to pay certain medical expenses incurred by certain public safety personnel.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Michael J. Rodrigues

Paul A. Schmid, III

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

First Bristol and Plymouth

8th Bristol

SENATE No. 2192

By Mr. Rodrigues, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2192) of Michael J. Rodrigues and Paul A. Schmid, III (by vote of the town) for legislation to authorize the town of Westport to assess additional amounts of real estate and personal property taxes to pay certain medical expenses incurred by certain public safety personnel. Revenue. [Local Approval Received.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Fourteen

An Act authorizing the town of Westport to assess additional amounts of real estate and personal property taxes to pay certain medical expenses incurred by certain public safety personnel.

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 section 21C of chapter 59 of the General laws or any
2 other general or special law, the board of selectmen of the town of Westport may seek voter
3 approval for the town to assess an additional amount of real estate and personal property taxes,
4 not to exceed \$500,000 in a fiscal year, in excess of the amount otherwise permitted by law, for
5 the purpose of funding payment of legally-obligated medical expenses incurred by certain town
6 of Westport public safety personnel resulting from injuries sustained in the line of duty or for
7 debt issued for that purpose.

8 (b) Prior to October 1 of each year, the town shall notify the director of accounts in the
9 department of revenue of the amount the board of assessors shall raise on the tax rate for that
10 purpose.

11 (c) Such authorization shall remain in effect as long as there are outstanding legally
12 obligated medical expenses incurred by certain Town of Westport public safety personnel
13 resulting from injuries sustained in the line of duty.

14 SECTION 2. (a) The town of Westport may establish a special purpose fund to be
15 maintained by the town treasurer into which shall be deposited such additional assessed received
16 pursuant to section 1. Interest earned on the proceeds of the fund shall remain in the fund. Any
17 additional amount assessed each year shall be considered an amount approved under paragraph
18 (i½) or (k) of section 21C of chapter 59 of the General Laws for the purposes of calculating the

19 total taxes assessed pursuant to paragraph (a) of said section 21C of said chapter 59 or the
20 maximum levy limit pursuant to paragraph (f) of said section 21C of said chapter 59.

21 (b) Money from the fund may be expended for payment of legally-obligated medical
22 expenses incurred by certain town of Westport public safety personnel resulting from injuries
23 sustained in the line of duty or for debt issued for that purpose. The proceeds of the fund may be
24 expended by the board of selectmen without further authorization or appropriation.

25 (c) The fund shall be maintained as long as there are outstanding legally-obligated
26 medical expenses incurred by certain town of Westport public safety personnel resulting from
27 injuries sustained in the line of duty.

28 (d) When the fund is closed, the proceeds remaining in the fund shall be allocated by the
29 town of Westport to reduce the tax levy in accordance with instructions received from the
30 director of accounts in the department of revenue.

31 SECTION 3. Any question submitted to the voters pursuant to this act shall be worded as
32 follows:

33 “Shall the Town of Westport be allowed to assess an additional amount of real estate and
34 personal property taxes, not to exceed \$500,000.00 in any fiscal year, for the purpose of funding
35 payment of legally-obligated medical expenses incurred by certain Town of Westport public
36 safety personnel resulting from injuries sustained in the line of duty or for debt issued for that
37 purpose?

38 YES _____ NO _____ ?”

39 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon its passage.