

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ENRIQUE PEPÉN, BREADON, COLETTA ZAPATA,
FERNANDES ANDERSON, FLYNN, FITZGERALD, MEJIA, MURPHY, SANTANA,
WEBER, WORRELL, AND LOUIJEUNE



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY FOUR

HOME RULE PETITION

WHEREAS: Richard Lopez sustained serious injuries while in the line of duty on June 10, 2006 and as a result is incapacitated from further service as a firefighter for the Boston Fire Department; *and*

WHEREAS: While employed in the Boston Fire Department, Richard Lopez's pay and retirement are under the jurisdiction of the Boston Retirement Board; ***NOW THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That a petition to the General Court, accompanied by a bill for a special law relating to the City of Boston to be filed with an attested copy of this order be, and hereby is, approved under Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article II, as amended, of the Articles of Amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to the end that legislation be adopted precisely as follows, except for clerical or editorial changes of form only:

PETITION FOR A SPECIAL LAW RE: AN ACT REGARDING THE DISABILITY PENSION FOR RICHARD LOPEZ

SECTION 1. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the Boston retirement board shall increase the accidental disability retirement allowance payable to Richard Lopez, a retired firefighter of the fire department of the city of Boston who, as a result of injuries sustained while in the performance of his duties on June 10, 2006, is totally and permanently incapacitated from performing the essential duties of a firefighter.

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

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

(d) Upon attaining the mandatory retirement age for a firefighter of the city of

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

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

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

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

SECTION 4. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, if Richard Lopez was married upon retirement, upon his death, if he is still married to the spouse he was married to upon retirement then, should his spouse to whom he was married on the date upon retirement survive him, the retirement board of the city of Boston shall pay to the spouse an annuity in the amount of 75 per cent of the amount of the pension which otherwise would have been payable to Richard Lopez until the spouse's death. The pension benefits provided for in this section and section 1 shall be subject to section 103 of chapter 32 of the General Laws.

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

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

Filed on: June 12, 2024