

Offered by Councilor Michael F. Flaherty Baker, Ciommo, Essaibi-George, Jackson, LaMattina, McCarthy, O'Malley, Pressley, Zakim, Wu and Campbell

CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND SEVENTEEN

HOME RULE PETITION



AN ACT TO PROVIDE RESIDENCY PREFERENCE FOR THE BOSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE BOSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, The residency preference law, *Chapter 31, section 58 of the General Laws*, allows cities and towns to provide a residency preference for at least one year prior to taking the Civil Service Exam. The one year requirement allows individuals to move to Boston and after one year join the same pool as lifelong residents of the city.

WHEREAS, Because of concerns about the lack of women, people of color and city residents being accepted into the city's civil service agencies, increasing the residency requirement would give preference to city residents and likely help balance out gender and racial disparities.

WHEREAS, The City of Boston will benefit by having police officers and firefighters that are familiar with its neighborhoods both from a public safety perspective and as a means to continue partnerships with residents in the communities.

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 One (1) of Section Eight (8) of Article Two (2), as amended, of the Amendments 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 PROVIDING FOR RESIDENCY PREFERENCE FOR APPOINTMENT AT THE BOSTON POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS

SECTION 1. As used in this act, the following words shall have the following meanings:

“Residence,” the actual principal residence of the individual where he or she normally eats and sleeps and maintains his or her normal personal and household effects.

SECTION 2. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, any person seeking original appointment to the position of police officer or firefighter in the City of Boston will have a preference if that person has had residence in the City of Boston for three (3) continuous years prior to the date of that person’s respective Civil Service examination. Any person seeking original appointment to the position of police officer or firefighter in the City of Boston will not have a preference if that person has not had residence in the City of Boston for three (3) continuous years prior to the date of that person’s respective Civil Service examination.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Filed in Council: January 23, 2017