

The Legislative Process and the Early Retirement Bill



The Idea & Filing of Legislation

Proposals for MTA priority legislation were submitted by MTA members and approved by the member-run Government Relations Committee and MTA's Board of Directors. H.2620/S.1791 was drafted by MTA in coordination with lead sponsors, Representative Carol Doherty (Taunton) and Senator John Velis (Westfield). H.2620/S.1791 is among the over 7,000 bills filed in the 2021-2022 legislative session. MTA members, leadership and staff coordinated actions to secure legislative support and co-sponsorship.



Committee Assignment & Public Hearing

On **March 29, 2021** the Legislature assigned H.2620/S.1791 to the Joint Committee on Public Service for initial consideration. The committee held a public hearing on **September 1, 2021**, with MTA leadership and dozens of members testifying in support of the bill. Hundreds of MTA members have organized to contact their legislators to urge a favorable report out of committee. MTA leadership and staff continue to actively engage the committee in support of the legislation.



Committee Review & Recommendation

Following the hearing process, the public service committee continues to review the bill. On **February 2, 2022**, the committee issued an extension order for H.2620/S.1791 which allowed them to continue to work on the proposal before the next step of the legislative process. At the conclusion of this extension order, on **March 11, 2022**, the public service committee reported S.1791 with a favorable recommendation. On **March 24, 2022** the bill was renamed as S.2783 and assigned to the Senate Committee on Ways & Means for further review. This committee is tasked with reviewing legislation related to the finances of the Commonwealth. Importantly, it is not required by State House rules to act on any bills on their desk.

We are here!
We need your help!



Debate, Engrossment & Enactment

Should the bill be reported favorably out of Ways & Means, it would then need to be placed on the calendar of the chamber (House or Senate) to which it was sent. If the bill is passed by that chamber, it would then be reported to the Committee on Ways and Means in the other chamber for a separate review. Each chamber would be able to make amendments to the legislation as it moves through this process. If the House and Senate pass the same versions of the bill, a vote on enactment would occur in both chambers. If there are differences between the House and Senate versions, the bill would be assigned to a Conference Committee to resolve any differences before a vote of enactment can take place.



The Governor's Action

Following enactment, the bill would be sent to the governor who may act on the bill in a variety of ways. The governor could sign the bill into law, veto the bill, allow it to become law without a signature, or return the bill to the Legislature with recommendation for changes. The Legislature could overturn a governor's veto by a two-thirds vote in both chambers and could decide whether or not to accept the governor's amendments. All required roll call votes must take place by **July 31, 2022**, but bills can continue to be passed with unanimous consent until **January 3, 2023**.