

HOUSE No. 2698

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Alan Silvia

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 relative to public safety retention in gateway municipalities.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Alan Silvia</i>	<i>7th Bristol</i>	<i>1/14/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 2698

By Representative Silvia of Fall River, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2698) of Alan Silvia relative to public safety retention in gateway municipalities. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 2401 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**

An Act relative to public safety retention in gateway municipalities.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 41 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 108P the
2 following section:-

3 108Q. (a) For the purposes of this section the following words shall, unless the context
4 requires otherwise, have the following meaning:

5 “Gateway municipality”, a municipality with a population greater than 35,000 and less
6 than 250,000 with a median household income below the commonwealth's average and a rate of
7 educational attainment of a bachelor's degree or above that is below the commonwealth's
8 average.

9 “Public safety department”, a functional division of a gateway municipality that provides
10 fire fighting, law enforcement, ambulance, medical or other emergency services.

11 “Secretary”, the secretary of public safety.

12 (b) There is hereby established a public safety employee retention program offering
13 grants for improvements to public safety departments in gateway municipalities that offer
14 retention incentives to their employees.

15 (c) A public safety department in a gateway municipality shall be eligible for a grant
16 pursuant to this section if it offers any of the following incentives to its employees:

17 (1) competitive wages;

18 (2) regular cost-of-living adjustments to wages;

19 (3) retention bonuses;

20 (4) lateral hiring incentives;

21 (5) optional training in addition to trainings required by law; and

22 (6) any other retention incentive approved by the secretary.

23 (d) The amount of any grant awarded pursuant to this section shall be proportional to the
24 number of qualifying retention incentives listed in subsection (c).

25 (e) Grant monies awarded to public safety departments in gateway municipalities
26 pursuant to this section may be used for:

27 (1) the employment of additional public safety department employees; or

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(2) any other purpose approved by the secretary.