

HOUSE No. 54

Annual report of the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission (under sections 21, 102 and 103 of Chapter 32 of the General Laws) relative to the percentum change in the average cost-of-living as shown by the United States consumer price index for the year 2014 compared with such index for the year 2013

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)**

An Act Annual report of the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission (under sections 21, 102 and 103 of Chapter 32 of the General Laws) relative to the percentum change in the average cost-of-living as shown by the United States consumer price index for the year 2014 compared with such index for the year 2013.

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

- 1 PERAC
- 2 COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
- 3 PUBLIC EMPLOYEE
- 4 RETIREMENT ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION
- 5 January 5, 2015.
- 6 Mr. Steven T. James, House Clerk
- 7 House of Representatives
- 8 State House, Room 145

9 Boston, MA 02133

10 Dear Mr. James:

11 In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 32, Section 21(3)(f), I am pleased to file
12 this report pertaining to Cost of Living Adjustments for retirees and beneficiaries as set forth in
13 Chapter 17 of the Acts of 1997.

14 Under this statute, this report consists of informing the General Court of the computation
15 of the increase in the United States Consumer Price Index in the previous year set by the
16 Commissioner of Social Security. Any such increase is based on the Consumer Price Index for
17 Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W). This index is used annually to adjust
18 benefits paid to Social Security retirees and beneficiaries.

19 The Social Security Administration has announced that the latest Cost of Living
20 Adjustment (COLA) is 1.7%.

21 A similar report will be filed with the retirement board of each system that has accepted
22 Chapter 17. The COLA, which any such system may grant pursuant to Chapter 32, Section
23 103(c) and effective July 1, 2015, will thus be 1.7%. Pursuant to Section 103(i), a Retirement
24 Board, with proper notice to the legislative body, may elect to increase this percentage up to 3%,
25 at a duly called meeting.

26 I hope this information is of assistance to the members of the legislature in implementing
27 the provisions of Chapter 17.

28 Sincerely,

29 JOSEPH E. CONNARTON,

