

SENATE No. 1543

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Adam G. Hinds

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 resolve:

Resolve establishing a study on alternative retirement benefits of public employees.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Adam G. Hinds

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden

SENATE No. 1543

By Mr. Hinds, a petition (accompanied by resolve, Senate, No. 1543) of Adam G. Hinds for legislation to establish a study on alternative retirement benefits of public employees . Public Service.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

Resolve establishing a study on alternative retirement benefits of public employees.

1 **Resolved**, notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the Massachusetts
2 state retirement board, hereinafter “the board”, shall conduct a study relative to employees who
3 are members of the state’s public retirement system, and their spouses or beneficiaries, who are
4 or may be subject to the federal elimination provision, “WEP”, and the federal governmental
5 pension offset provision, “GPO”. The purpose of the study is to identify how the commonwealth
6 can improve and provide financial support to public employee retirees whose social security
7 benefit amounts have been or are reduced by the effects of WEP and GPO. The study shall
8 identify alternative public and private retirement programs and resources of the commonwealth
9 that are available to said employees and their spouses and beneficiaries, as well as identify the
10 barriers, including relative laws, policies and procedures, to accessing such programs and
11 resources. The study shall make recommendations that include, but not limited to: improving
12 access to such alternative retirement programs and resources; improving existing programs and
13 resources of the commonwealth; establishing new programs and resources, funding, and policies
14 that ensure public employees and their spouses and beneficiaries have sufficient access to

15 retirement programs and resources that may supplement for the loss of social security amount
16 incurred from the effects of WEP and GPO.

17 The board shall work in collaboration with, but not limited to: the public employee
18 retirement administration commission; the Massachusetts teachers' retirement board; other
19 offices, departments and agencies of the commonwealth, as appropriate.

20 The board shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the clerks of the
21 house of representatives and the senate, the house and senate committees on ways and means, the
22 joint committee on revenue, the joint committee on labor and workforce development, joint
23 committee on municipalities and regional government, and the joint committee on public service,
24 not later than December 31, 2020.