

**Chap. 317.** AN ACT PROVIDING INDEMNIFICATION FOR RETIRED POLICE OFFICERS AND FIRE FIGHTERS FOR CERTAIN EXPENSES INCURRED BY THEM ATTRIBUTABLE TO A SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY.

*Be it enacted, etc., as follows:*

Chapter 41 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section 100B, as most recently amended by chapter 227 of the acts of 1970, and inserting in place thereof the following section: —

*Section 100B.* Any city operating under a Plan D or Plan E charter which accepts this section by the affirmative vote of two thirds of all the members of its city council, and any other city which accepts this section by a majority vote of its city council with the approval of its mayor, and any town which accepts this section by a majority vote of its inhabitants at an annual town meeting, may, upon written application by any of its police officers or fire fighters retired either before or after the acceptance of this section under a general or special law specifically relating to retirement for accidental disability, except a special law applicable to one person, or in the event of the death of any such police officer or fire fighter, upon written application by his widow or, if he leaves no widow, by his next of kin, indemnify, out of any funds appropriated for the purposes of this section, such police officer or fire fighter or, in the event of his death, his widow, or if he leaves no widow, his next of kin, for all reasonable hospital, medical and surgical, chiropractic, nursing, pharmaceutical, prosthetic and related expenses and reasonable charges for podiatry incurred within the commonwealth by such police officer or fire fighter after his retirement; provided, however, that no person shall be indemnified under this section unless a majority of the members of a panel consisting of (a) the chairman of the retirement board of the city or town, (b) the city solicitor, town counsel or other officer having similar duties or a person designated in writing by such solicitor, counsel or officer to act for him, and (c) such physician as the city or town manager or, if there is none, the mayor or selectmen in writing appoint shall, upon receipt from the applicant of due proof, certify: — (1) that the expenses for which indemnification is sought were the natural and proximate result of the disability for which the police officer or fire fighter was retired; (2) that such expenses were incurred after the acceptance of this section; (3) that the hospital, medical and surgical, chiropractic, nursing, pharmaceutical, prosthetic and related expenses and reasonable charges for podiatry to which such expenses relate were rendered within six months before the filing of the application; (4) that such expenses were in no ways attributable to the use by the police officer or fire fighter of any intoxicating liquor or drug or to his being gainfully employed after retirement or to any other willful act or conduct on his part; and (5) that such expenses are reasonable under all the circumstances. *Approved May 25, 1972.*

**Chap. 318.** AN ACT FURTHER REGULATING THE APPROVAL OF CERTAIN LOW-RENT HOUSING PROJECTS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS.

*Be it enacted, etc., as follows:*

Section 31 of chapter 121B of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out subparagraph (a), as amended by section 5 of chapter 851

of the acts of 1970, and inserting in place thereof the following subparagraph:—

(a) Projects involving the purchase or acquisition of the right to use completed dwelling units which have been recently constructed, reconstructed or remodeled, whether condominium units, individual buildings part of a larger development, or a portion of the units in a multi-family development, shall be approved by the department only after it makes the following determinations: (i) the number of units involved, other than units specifically to be used for elderly persons of low income, does not exceed one hundred in any one building or development; and (ii) the housing authority has made adequate arrangements for the maintenance and operation of the units, either through use of its own personnel or by contract with the owner or manager of the other units in the development.

*Approved May 25, 1972.*

**Chap. 319.** AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A SPEEDY TRIAL OF CLAIMS FOR CERTAIN UNPAID BENEFITS DUE FROM INSURERS UNDER THE COMPULSORY PERSONAL INJURY PROTECTION PROVISIONS OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE LAW.

*Be it enacted, etc., as follows:*

The fourth paragraph of section 34M of chapter 90 of the General Laws, as appearing in section 4 of chapter 670 of the acts of 1970, is hereby amended by adding the following two sentences:— In any such action commenced in the district court in the judicial district in which the unpaid party resides, the court shall, upon the filing of an answer by the insurer and upon the motion of the unpaid party, advance the action for a speedy trial. If the unpaid party recovers a judgment for any amount due and payable by the insurer, the court shall assess against the insurer in addition thereto costs and reasonable attorney's fees.

*Approved May 25, 1972.*

**Chap. 320.** AN ACT PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS RELATING TO THE AWARDING OF CERTAIN PUBLIC CONTRACTS.

*Be it enacted, etc., as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 4B of chapter 40 of the General Laws, as most recently amended by section 1 of chapter 61 of the acts of 1972, is hereby further amended by adding the following paragraph:—

Whoever violates any provision of this section shall be punished by a fine of not more than ten thousand dollars or by imprisonment in the state prison for not more than three years or in a jail or house of correction for not more than two and one-half years, or by both said fine and imprisonment; and in the event of final conviction, said person shall be incapable of holding any office of honor, trust or profit under the commonwealth or under any county, district or municipal agency.

SECTION 2. Section 28 of chapter 43 of the General Laws, as most recently amended by section 2 of said chapter 61, is hereby further amended by adding the following paragraph:—

Whoever violates any provision of this section shall be punished by a fine of not more than ten thousand dollars or by imprisonment in the state prison for not more than three years or in a jail or house of cor-