

By Mr. Jones of North Reading, petition of Bradley H. Jones, Jr., George N. Peterson, Jr. and Mary S. Rogeness relative to providing certain property tax exemptions to the surviving spouses of deceased firefighters. Taxation.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Three.

AN ACT PROVIDING CERTAIN PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS TO THE SURVIVING SPOUSES OF DECEASED FIREFIGHTERS.

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

1 Section 5 of Chapter 59 of the General Laws, as appearing in
2 the 2000 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the
3 last sentence of Clause 42 thereof the following sentence:—
4 For purposes of this clause, a firefighter (including a uniformed
5 member of a paid fire department, or a permanent crash crewman,
6 crash boatman, fire controlman or assistant fire controlman
7 employed at the General Edward Lawrence Logan International
8 Airport) who suffered from any condition of cancer affecting the
9 skin or the central nervous, lymphatic, digestive, hematological,
10 urinary, skeletal, oral or prostate systems, lung or respiratory tract,
11 resulting in total disability or death, shall, if he successfully
12 passed a physical examination on entry into such service or subse-
13 quent to such entry, which examination failed to reveal any evi-
14 dence of such condition, be presumed to have been killed in the
15 line of duty, unless it is shown by a preponderance of the evidence
16 that non-service connected risk factors or non-service connected
17 accidents or hazards undergone, or any combination thereof,
18 caused such condition; provided that, this clause shall apply only
19 if the disabling or fatal condition is a type of cancer that may, in
20 general, result from an exposure to heat, radiation, or a known or
21 suspected carcinogen as determined by the International Agency
22 for Research on Cancer, so called.

