

[A copy of the text of a letter sent to Senator Tolman on Senate 1662 (the current MCSA Dispatcher Group 2 bill). The letter was on Joint Committee on Public Service letterhead. The letter was FAX'd to MCSA by Senator Tolman's aide, Will Luzier. NOTE MCSA added the text of the three bills on the third page for the benefit of readers]

July 26, 2007

Dear Senator Tolman:

This letter is in regards to S1662, S1664, and S1666, group classification bills that were referred to the Joint Committee on Public Service.

According to the rules of the Joint Committee, all proposed group classification bills must first meet a set of criteria to be considered for a favorable recommendation. This set of criteria came directly from the report of the Blue Ribbon Panel of the Massachusetts Public Employees Classification System. The criteria are intended to bring objectivity and accountability to the difficult task of group reclassification of the Commonwealth's pension system.

Please see the enclosed list of criteria for your reference. If the bill was filed on behalf of an individual or group of employees, it is recommended that they also be forwarded a copy of the criteria.

All group classification bills will be heard on Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:30AM in Room B-2. This should give sponsors and interested parties ample time to determine whether proposed legislation can meet the reclassification requirements and take the necessary steps to do so. Please be advised that certain criteria, such as a cost estimate by the impacted retirement system, could take significant time to complete.

If there are any questions regarding the group classification criteria, the Blue Ribbon Panel, or other related matters please contact the staff of the Joint Committee on Public Service.

Sincerely,

Jay R. Kaufman  
House Chair

Benjamin B. Downing  
Senate Chair

## GROUP CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA

All bills regarding group classification must meet the following criteria to be considered for a favorable recommendation by the Joint Committee on Public Service.

1. All requests should be accompanied by a cost estimate that shows the impact of the reclassification on the retirement system's unfunded liability. Bill sponsors will be responsible for contacting the retirement board directly and acquiring such an estimate. The estimate should be submitted as written testimony prior to or during the hearing in which the bill is scheduled.
2. All requests must include an opinion of the affected retirement board as to the appropriate classification and a justification for the change based on the criteria set out for each group.
3. Any reclassification bill that is not accompanied by a cost estimate and written opinion of the affected retirement board will not be considered during executive session, until the estimate and opinion are received by the Committee.
4. The criteria for movement to a higher group is based on job responsibilities – not job title.
5. The criteria for movement to a different group is based on an argument that the current position is too demanding to be sustained until a given age and that sufficient suitable alternative jobs do not exist for workers with the skills that are exercised in current jobs.
6. The basis for classification for Group 2 is that the daily physical exertion of the job makes it impossible to safely and effectively carry out the functions beyond age 60.
7. The basis for classification for Group 4 is that the daily physical exertion of the job makes it impossible to safely and effectively carry out the functions beyond age 55.
8. Training, certification, and exposure to hazardous substances are not justifications for movement to Group 2 or Group 4.
9. The fact that employees doing similar work happen to currently be in a higher group does not justify reclassification.

1. Senate 1662 Text

**AN ACT FURTHER REGULATING PENSIONS OF POLICE AND  
FIRE DISPATCHERS AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

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

SECTION 1. Section 3 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2002 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the words “signal maintenance repairmen” the following words- “ an employee of a municipal, county, or commonwealth police, fire or communications department who is employed as a civilian dispatcher, dispatch supervisor or telecommunicator of fire, police or emergency medical services.”

2. Senate 1664 Text

**AN ACT FOR LEGISLATION TO PLACE CERTAIN HOUSING  
POLICE OFFICERS IN GROUP FOUR**

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

SECTION 1. Paragraph (g) of clause 2 of section 3 of chapter 32 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 1998 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the words “supervising prison camp officer,” under the definition of membership in Group four, the following words: “any police officer of the Boston Housing Authority.”

3. Senate 1666 Text

**AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE RETIREMENT BENEFITS OF  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS**

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

SECTION 1. Section 3 of chapter 32 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2000 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word “section”, in line 307, the following words:- ; uniformed employees of a municipal or public emergency medical service who are certified at any level as emergency medical technicians by the department of public health, if they are members of the state retirement system, or, upon acceptance of this classification in the same manner as in subsection (a) of section 103, if they are members of any system other than the state employees' retirement system and the teacher's retirement system.