

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR GABRIELA COLETTA ZAPATA



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

HOME RULE PETITION

WHEREAS, Richard “Ricky” Scimeca is a lifelong resident of the City of Boston who was born and raised in the community, continues to reside in the City, and owns and operates a small business in Boston; *and*

WHEREAS, Mr. Scimeca has taken the Massachusetts civil service firefighter examination five times and, on the current eligibility list, earned a score of 98, demonstrating strong aptitude and commitment to public service; *and*

WHEREAS, Mr. Scimeca is a Disabled American Veteran who has consistently sought to continue serving the public through a career with the Boston Fire Department; *and*

WHEREAS, Mr. Scimeca has successfully passed the Physical Ability Test (PAT) each time he has taken the civil service examination, further demonstrating his physical readiness and fitness for the position of firefighter; *and*

WHEREAS, Despite his qualifications, Mr. Scimeca has been notified by the Human Resources Division that his current ranking on the eligibility list is not sufficient for appointment, and that he will otherwise age out of eligibility before having another meaningful opportunity for appointment; *and*

WHEREAS, Mr. Scimeca is currently participating in the City’s Firefighter Hybrid Hiring process, which represents his final opportunity to pursue appointment before exceeding the statutory age limit; *and*

WHEREAS, Mr. Scimeca has raised concerns regarding inconsistencies in the administration of the Physical Ability Test, including differences between the test demonstration and the actual exam and the use of defective weighted vests, which he believes unfairly impacted his ability to advance in the hybrid process; *and*

WHEREAS, According to M.G.L. c. 31, § 58A, “no person shall be eligible to have his name certified for original appointment to the position of firefighter or police officer if such person has reached his thirty-second birthday on the date of the entrance examination”; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That a petition to the General Court, accompanied by a bill for a special law relating to the City of Boston to be filed with an attested copy of this Order be, and hereby is, approved under Clause One (1) of Section Eight (8) of Article Two (2), as amended, of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to the end that legislation be adopted precisely as follows, except for clerical or editorial changes of form only:

**PETITION FOR A SPECIAL LAW RE: AN ACT DIRECTING THE CITY OF BOSTON
FIRE DEPARTMENT TO WAIVE THE MAXIMUM AGE REQUIREMENT FOR
FIREFIGHTERS FOR RICHARD SCIMECA**

SECTION 1.

Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the City of Boston Fire Department shall waive the maximum age requirement for original appointment of firefighters for Richard Scimeca. If Scimeca meets all other requirements set forth by the Boston Fire Department, he shall be eligible to have his name certified for appointment to the position of firefighter.

SECTION 2.

The provisions of this act are severable and if any provision, or portion thereof, should be held to be unconstitutional or otherwise invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality or invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions, which shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 3.

This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Filed on: February 25, 2026