



**REPRESENTATIVE JAMES E. VALLEE  
MAJORITY LEADER**

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**VALLEE ANNOUNCES PASSAGE OF PUBLIC PENSION OVERHAUL**

*Legislature votes for far-reaching, all-inclusive reform*

**BOSTON** – Representative James E. Vallee (D-Franklin), Majority Leader of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, today reinforced his support for real reform of the state pension system, as the House overwhelmingly passed a bicameral bill that closes the most egregious loopholes and eliminates possibilities for pension abuse. From the outset of this legislative session, Vallee has consistently called for sweeping, meaningful pension reform that will result in cost-savings for taxpayers and movement toward renewed faith in elected officials.

“Improvements to the pension law should apply to all state employees, regardless of their status as elected officials or not.” said Vallee. “To have real impact, these reforms need to be made all inclusive, and this bill does just that.” The bill is applicable to all employees who retire after July 1.

The bill—negotiated by a conference committee of House and Senate members charged with resolving the differences between each chamber’s version of pension reform legislation—includes provisions applicable to both current and future state employees and that represent immediate savings. The final bill:

- Eliminates the so-called “one day, one year” stipulation that allowed elected officials to serve one day in a calendar year and gain a full year of creditable service
- Strikes the “king for a day” rule that allowed for increased benefits for some employees who go out on accidental disability retirement if they did so while filling in for a supervisor
- Removes termination allowances for elected officials who failed to receive nomination or win re-election.
- Prohibits employees from establishing pension credit for service in positions that were compensated less than \$5000

- Restricts the number of hours a retired individual can work for a state authority or as a consultant while collecting a pension allowance
- Redefines what constitutes “regular compensation” for the purpose of calculating pension benefits. It excludes bonuses, overtime pay, severance pay, unused vacation time, per diem allowances, and more, from that definition

“This bill’s passage is not only substantive proof of bona fide change of our pension system, but also a symbolic statement to citizens of the Commonwealth that we, as a Legislature, are serious about reforming and redefining the way we spend tax dollars,” said Vallee. “This is a strong bill and a clear message to constituents. I am very pleased to have been part of its passage.”

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