

### Section III – Questions with Response Boxes – To Be Completed By Petition Sponsor

Article # 28	Date Form Completed: 9/15/22
Article Title: <b>The Brave Act</b>	
Sponsor Name: Thomas Butler	Email: butler@natickpolice.com

Question	Question
1	Provide the article motion exactly as it is intended to be voted on by the Finance Committee.
Response	<p>Move that the Town accept the following provisions of Massachusetts General Laws as amended by the Massachusetts BRAVE Act regarding military veterans' benefits.</p> <p>A. Move that pursuant to M.G.L.c. 4 §4, the Town accept M.G.L.c. 33, §59;</p> <p>B. Move that pursuant to M.G.L.c. 4 §4, the Town accept M.G.L.c. 59 §5N;</p> <p>C. Move that pursuant to M.G.L.c. 4 §4, the Town accept M.G.L.c. 59 §5 Clause 22G;</p> <p>D. Move that pursuant to M.G.L.c. 4 §4, the Town accept M.G.L.c. 59 §5 Clause 22H;</p>
2	At a summary level and very clearly, what is proposed purpose and objective of this Warrant Article and the required Motion?
Response	<p>(Type response here)</p> <p>The purpose of this Warrant Article is to adopt four provisions of Mass General Laws as amended to benefit veterans and their families.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first part of the provision allows the town to pay employees during their first 40 days of service and for employees to continue to accrue certain benefits while they are out on military leave. Employees on military leave would receive full pay for the first 40 days of full-time service. Active military members would receive both pay from the military and the town during this time. Currently, the town pays for the first 17 days for employees</li> <li>• The second part of the provision is to expand the existing senior volunteer tax credit program to include veterans. In a city or town which accepts this section, a program may be established to allow veterans to volunteer to provide services to that city or town in exchange for a reduction in real property tax obligations.</li> <li>• The third part of the provision extends tax exemption and tax credit eligibility status to veterans who live in and pay mortgages in homes that are owned by trusts, conservatorships or other fiduciaries for the person's benefit.</li> <li>• The fourth part of the provision extends tax exemption eligibility to parents and guardians of veterans who have fallen in the line of duty (Gold Star families). This benefit currently extends only to spouses.</li> </ul>

3	What does the sponsor gain from a positive action by Town Meeting on the motion?
Response	The sponsor envisions that by a positive action by Town Meeting, veterans feel acknowledged and appreciated. In addition, Massachusetts has passed the Brave Act, and in doing so, have paved the way to ensure that, as a whole, we continue to make certain improvements to services and benefits for veterans. The Town of Natick, being the strong, supportive community that it is, will hopefully fall in line with other communities that have also passed that act.
4	Describe with some specificity how the sponsor envisions how: the benefits will be realized; the problem will be solved; the community at large will gain value in the outcome through the accompanied motion?
Response	In addition to all the points stated in my response to question 3, town employees who currently serve in the National Guard and are receiving pay and accruing benefits during their first 17 days of service would now receive pay and accrue benefits during their first 40 days of service. This would alleviate the often financial and personal burdens of the veteran who is still serving the country in a different capacity.
5	How does the proposed motion (and implementation) fit with the relevant Town Bylaws, financial and capital plan, comprehensive plan, and community values as well as relevant state laws and regulations
Response	(Type response here) The sponsor realizes that there is always a cost involved in providing any type of benefit, including benefits to veterans. However, after providing some research, the sponsor would estimate that this cost would be quite small, with little impact to the Town's \$189,000,000 budget. As mentioned above, The Town of Natick, being the strong, proud, supportive community that it is, will fall in line with other communities that have also passed the act. Natick is also a community that values and supports all employees.
6	Have you considered and assessed, qualified and quantified the various impacts to the community such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town infrastructure (traffic, parking, etc.)</li> <li>• Neighbors (noise, traffic, etc.);</li> <li>• Environment and green issues (energy conservation, pollution, trash, encouraging walking and biking, etc.);</li> </ul>
Response	(Type response here) N/A

7	<p>Who are the critical participants in executing the effort envisioned by the article motion?</p> <p>To this point what efforts have been made to involve those participants who may be accountable, responsible, consulted or just advised/informed on the impacts of executing the motion?</p>
Response	<p>(Type response here)</p> <p>Paul Carew, Veterans' Services Director Chief of Police, James Hicks Eric Henderson, Director of Assessing</p>
8	<p>What steps and communication has the sponsor attempted to assure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interested parties were notified in a timely way and had a chance to participate in the process, that</li> <li>• Appropriate town Boards &amp; Committees were consulted</li> <li>• Required public hearings were held</li> </ul>
Response	<p>(Type response here)</p> <p>Public hearings were not required. Communication was made to the Director of Veterans' Services and Board of Assessor (Director of Assessing) The Sponsor was in contact with the Finance Committee The Sponsor was in contact with the Select Board</p>
9	<p>Why is it required for the Town of Natick AND for the sponsor(s)?</p>
Response	<p>(Type response here)</p> <p>Not required.</p>
10	<p>Since submitting the article petition have you identified issues that weren't initially considered in the development of the proposal?</p>
Response	<p>(Type response here)</p> <p>No</p>

<b>11</b>	What are other towns and communities in the Metro West area, or the Commonwealth of MA doing similar to what your motion seeks to accomplish
Response	<p>(Type response here)</p> <p><b><u>LIST*</u></b></p> <p>Abington, MA</p> <p>Ashland, MA</p> <p>Belmont, MA</p> <p>Chicopee, MA</p> <p>Framingham, MA</p> <p>Hingham, MA</p> <p>Holyoke</p> <p>Littleton, MA</p> <p>Ludlow</p> <p>Walpole, MA</p> <p>Watertown, MA</p> <p>Uxbridge, MA</p> <p>*(The list is not publicly available to the sponsor, but is still actively being comprised through diligent ongoing research by the sponsor and the Director of Veterans' Services)</p>
<b>12</b>	If this Warrant Article is not approved by Town Meeting what are the consequences to the Town and to the sponsor(s)? Please be specific on both financial and other consequences.
Response	<p>(Type response here)</p> <p>If the Article is not passed, it could potentially effect the confidence, trust, and morale of veterans and veteran employees who are living and working in the Town</p>