



CITY OF BOSTON
STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mayor Martin J. Walsh

2017-2018 Session

Economic Opportunities

An Act to Prevent Funds Deposited in Children's Savings Accounts from Counting Against Cash Assistance Benefits (Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz and Representative Chynah Tyler) – SB28/HB121

Parents should be encouraged, not penalized, for saving for their children's future education costs. This legislation ensures that Children's Savings Accounts (CSA) reach their maximum benefits by not counting against asset limits for the State's various cash assistance programs.

***An Act to Prevent Wage Theft and Promote Employer Accountability (Senator Sal N. DiDomenico and Representative Aaron Michlewitz) – SB999/HB1033**

This legislation will hold general contractors accountable for any wage theft carried out by subcontractors on their projects. It will increase the ability of workers to obtain remedies for wage theft. This bill is in alignment with Mayor Walsh's Wage Theft Executive Order, which requires vendors applying for a City contract to certify that neither they nor any of their subcontractors have violated federal and state wage laws. The Executive Order also allows the Boston Licensing Board to take into consideration whether a licensee has been found to have violated state fair labor laws or the Fair Labor Standards Act when determining whether to re-issue, modify, suspend, or revoke a license. This bill will provide sensible and effective updates to our labor laws that will complement the policies adopted by the City.

***An Act to Improve the Earned Income Tax Credit (Senator James Eldridge and Representative Marjorie Decker) – SB1521/HB1504**

The cost of living in Massachusetts has significantly outpaced the assistance that the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) provides. An increase in the amount of the State EITC to 50% of the federal tax credit is needed in order to help low-income residents of Massachusetts maintain their standard of living in our high-cost state.

***An Act Relative to the Massachusetts Next Generation Network Initiative Promoting Gigabit Broadband Networks (Senator Joseph Boncore) – SB1822**

The Next Generation Network Initiative will provide matching funds to support municipalities or regional planning organizations that work to expand municipal broadband throughout the Commonwealth. Creating and expanding municipal broadband networks provides significant benefits to cities, including millions of dollars in cost savings for telecommunications and through the promotion of technology adoption in government and schools.

*Re-filed legislation

***An Act Relative to Creating a Maximum Allowable Check-Cashing Rate (Senator Linda Dorcena Forry, Representative Kay Khan and Representative Daniel Hunt) – SB122/HB2819**

Massachusetts is one of only eight states that does not regulate check-cashing rates. Many check cashing locations in the City of Boston are located in low-income neighborhoods and often charge high fees for these services. This negatively impacts our residents who do not have bank accounts. This legislation will create maximum rates for check-cashing to ensure that more of our residents' money is going into their pockets.

***An Act Relative to Licensing Penalties (Representative Aaron Michlewitz) – HB1987**

Currently, the City can only levy penalties such as warnings, suspensions, or revocations for entertainment and liquor license violations. This can have unintended consequences that are detrimental to the employees who rely on the income from those service industry jobs. This legislation will provide regulators with another disciplinary tool by allowing monetary fines to be levied when appropriate.

An Act Relative to Liquor Licenses in the City of Boston

The City of Boston needs to create community environments in which people can live, work, shop, and eat. Creating such environments is dependent on the economic vitality of our small businesses and local food establishments, which are heavily reliant on the liquor licensure process. As the State's economic engine, it is critical that Boston has a sufficient number of licenses so that we can continue to attract new businesses and restaurants.

Education

An Act Relative to Education Finance Reform (Senator Sal N. DiDomenico) – SB236

This legislation will make several important changes to charter school funding to better protect municipal finances in the first years that a child transitions to a charter school. The bill will:

- Eliminate the existing charter tuition reimbursement formula for cities and towns;
- Commit the Commonwealth's support for additional charter school seats by providing 3 years of transitional funding (100% of the tuition in year 1, 50% in year 2, and 25% in year 3, with the municipality responsible for the balance in Years 2 and 3.) directly to charter schools; and,
- Adjust the charter school per-pupil tuition calculation to recognize the full transition costs for students leaving BPS to attend charter schools, rather than just the amount funded through the transition funding formula.

*Re-filed legislation

An Act Relative to the Municipal Revenue Growth Factor and An Act Modernizing the Foundation Budget for the 21st Century (Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz) – SB220/SB223

These pieces of legislation cap the municipal revenue growth factor at 2.5% as it relates to the Chapter 70 formula for communities like Boston that teach the most economically disadvantaged students, are investing more in education than required, and receive no new foundation aid. They also implement the Foundation Budget Review Commission's recommendations, which make a much-needed investment in public education. The Chapter 70 formula does not adequately recognize the expensive nature of Boston's student population, which is among the most economically disadvantaged in the State, speaks over 85 languages at home, and includes more than five times the number of special education students the formula assumes. It also considers Boston "rich" due to its high property values and income, while failing to recognize that these characteristics do not directly contribute to municipal revenue, because Boston doesn't have an income tax and its property tax is constrained by Proposition 2 1/2. Finally, the municipal revenue growth factor does not account for the high increase in fixed costs that Boston sees every year with a steep pension schedule, charter school growth, and debt service. If new state revenue is identified for education aid, Boston could fundamentally change its State Education Aid picture and invest an additional \$150 million per year in its students within the next several years.

An Act Relative to Charter School Facilities Costs (Representative Adrian Madaro) – HB2048

The Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) was created to help public school facilities provide the best educational spaces for our youth. This bill makes the following modifications that are in alignment with the charge of the MSBA while also helping both municipal finances and charter schools:

- Simplify the funding of charter facilities by shifting the cost of the charter school facilities funding from the General Fund to the MSBA to allow for more resources to be freed up for communities through the charter school transition funding model; and,
- Make charter schools eligible for MSBA funding.

An Act to Expanding Access to High Quality Early Education in Boston (Representative Nick Collins) – HB3759

This legislation will redirect a portion of the Convention Center Fund revenue raised in Boston to the City of Boston rather than the Convention Center Fund: Boston Sightseeing Tour Surcharge and the Boston Vehicular Rental Transaction Surcharge. This will generate about \$16.5 million (based on FY16 revenue) in revenue through existing tax levies on Boston's tourism industry to the City of Boston. Whereas other convention center fund revenues (such as hotel fees) are directly related to convention center business, Boston rental car and sightseeing

*Re-filed legislation

revenue does not largely benefit from convention center business. Mayor Walsh has committed to using this additional revenue to fund universal, high-quality pre-k.

An Act Relative to Neighborhood-Based Charter Schools (Representative Alice Peisch) – HB2876

This proposal will allow Commonwealth Charter schools and Horace Mann schools that so choose to offer a geographical preference to students.

***An Act Relative to the School Turnaround Process (Representative Kevin Honan) – HB272**

The Joint Resolution Committee (JRC) is a 3-member arbitration body put in place to finalize unresolved issues within a Level 4 school turnaround process. This bill will make three changes to strengthen that turnaround process by: (1) allowing one or more parts of a JRC decision to be opened for renegotiation without opening up the entire agreement; (2) clarifying that JRC decisions would stay in effect if a turnaround plan is renewed at the end of the first 3 years; and, (3) requiring that the transition period out of underperforming status be at least 5 years with the JRC agreement remaining in place over this time so the school may retain the flexibilities that allowed the school to turn around and ensure that gains persist.

***An Act Relative to Special Education Funding (Senator Sal N. DiDomenico) – SB235**

The state requires that districts provide comprehensive special education services but state funding via the Chapter 70 and Circuit Breaker formulas has not kept pace with the true cost of services provided by the district. This bill would allow districts to include the actual number of students with disabilities enrolled into the Chapter 70 formula (enrollment is currently capped at 3.75% of total students) and would provide Circuit Breaker reimbursement to districts for 75% of costs above 3x the average pupil (currently reimbursement is triggered at costs 4x the average pupil).

***An Act Ensuring High Quality Pre-kindergarten Education (Senator Sal N. DiDomenico and Representative Alice Peisch) – SB240/HB2874**

This bill will create a state-wide grant program for cities and towns to support pre-k expansion and pre-k quality improvement, helping to achieve the City of Boston's goal of offering a seat in a quality universal pre-k program to every child that wants one.

***An Act for Language Opportunity for Our Kids (Senator Sal N. DiDomenico and Representative Jeffrey Sánchez) – SB323/HB2058**

This legislation will create a Seal of Biliteracy, which recognizes high school graduates who are proficient in two languages. It will also increase the flexibility for schools to implement multiple language instruction programs for English Language Learner (ELL) students by removing state

*Re-filed legislation

regulations that inhibit and prevent the establishment of new programs for ELL students. Lastly, the bill will ensure proper qualifications for teachers by allowing the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to promulgate the pathway for teachers to be certified.

***An Act Relative to School Transportation Parity (Senator William Brownsberger and Representative Daniel Ryan) – SB213/HB316**

Transportation costs consume nearly 10% of the Boston Public Schools operating budget. Opportunities for cost savings can be found in maximizing the efficiency of our school bus transit program and expanding the use of public transportation. School districts are responsible for providing transportation for both district school and charter school students, but are often unable to apply cost-saving measures to charter school student transportation. This bill promotes greater parity between district and charter school transportation in an effort to reduce costs by: (1) maintaining the requirement that the district pays the full cost of transportation if a charter agrees to transportation schedules set by district (if not, the district and charter would split the cost 50/50); and, (2) prohibiting charters from billing the district for 3rd party transportation, as is the current policy within Boston Public Schools.

Environment, Energy & Open Space

An Act Relative to Public-Private Partnerships for an Energy Project (Representative Nick Collins)

This home rule petition will allow the City of Boston to enter into a service agreement as an “energy services manager” (ESM) for a group of publicly owned and privately owned buildings in the Mayor Raymond L. Flynn Marine Industrial Park, in order to conduct “district-scale energy projects” such as district energy infrastructure, solar power generation, microgrids, and battery storage. Currently, procurement laws do not allow for this type of public-private partnership. This bill will allow a single contractor for public and private buildings to put together a multi-party energy contract that will yield more efficient engineering, financing, and project coordination.

Government Efficiency & Civic Engagement

An Act Relative to Election Nomination Petitions in the City of Boston (Representative Angelo Scaccia)

This special act will create a more equitable process for candidates. Current law limits voters’ ability to sign multiple nomination papers for a given office. At this time, voters are only allowed to sign one nomination paper for candidates for mayor and district city councilor, and up to four nomination papers for city council at-large candidates. This Home Rule Petition will allow voters to sign nomination papers for as many candidates as they choose providing the opportunity for more candidates to get on the ballot. This not only benefits those who seek elected office but also

*Re-filed legislation

the voters who may now have more options when entering the voting booth. Participation in the electoral process needs to be more inclusive and this special act accomplishes that goal.

An Act to Allow Election Day Voter Registration (Senator Joseph Boncore and Representative Evandro Carvalho) – SB367HB354

This bill allows eligible citizens who missed the 20-day (prior to an election) registration deadline to cast their ballot on Election Day. Election Day registration would require acceptable proof of identification, and would occur at City Hall and/or designated sites.

An Act Relative to Inactive Voters (Representative Michael Moran) – HB1631

This legislation will eliminate the requirement that an inactive voter must make written affirmation of his/her current and continuous residency, provided that the voter presents suitable identification showing their name and address as registered. This will remove a lengthy and burdensome practice that occurs when an inactive voters arrives to vote, allowing poll workers to keep lines moving forward.

An Act Relative to Voting Precincts in the City of Boston (Representative Aaron Michlewitz)

This bill will establish additional polling locations in six (6) large precincts (over 3,000 voters) in Boston which have grown dramatically over the past ten years, alleviating lines at the City's busiest polling locations. This proposal adds polling locations in the following six (6) precincts:

- Ward 3 Precinct 6 (Downtown, Financial District & Parts of Beacon Hill)
- Ward 3 Precinct 7 (South End)
- Ward 3 Precinct 8 (Chinatown & South End)
- Ward 5 Precinct 1 (Bay Village)
- Ward 6 Precinct 1 (South Boston Seaport District)
- Ward 9 Precinct 3 (South End)

An Act Relative to the Taxation of Public Land Used for Commercial Purposes on Massport Property (Representative Daniel Ryan) – HB1625

This legislation will remove the special tax exemption for those properties owned by the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) that are leased for development and used in a manner that is not compliant with Massport's sea port and airport responsibilities. This bill will make Massport leasing operations consistent with the general tax policy of the Legislature to assess private, for-profit users of government land (e.g., Mass Highway, MBTA).

An Act Relative to the Composition of City of Boston Boards and Commissions (Representative Daniel Cullinane)

*Re-filed legislation

This legislation will allow the Mayor to appoint members to board and commission seats if requests for nominations to vacancies are not responded to in a designated time period. This will help to make our boards and commissions fully staffed as intended.

An Act to Amend the Boston Public Library Board of Trustees (Representative Byron Rushing)

Currently, the Boston Public Library (BPL) Board of Trustees is 9 members. This legislation will expand the BPL Board membership to up to 15 members. This change will broaden the expertise, experience, and perspective of Library leadership.

An Act Regarding Municipal Fines (Representative Chynah Tyler) – HB1116

Currently, Chapter 40U of the Massachusetts General Laws allows a municipality to issue fines for violations of the sanitary code, and ice and snow removal. This legislation will allow a municipality to issue fines for environmental, building, and zoning violations providing additional enforcement tools at the local level.

An Act Relative to the Electronic Filing of Certain Forms Used in Property Valuation (Representative Chynah Tyler) – HB1636

This legislation allows cities and towns to send and receive electronic requests, updating the applicable state statutes to reflect modern business practices. Taxpayers will be able to communicate with the city or town in a convenient, modern, and familiar method. Electronic filing will also improve administrative process efficiencies for municipalities, enabling a more timely response to taxpayer submissions.

***An Act Relative to Assessing Administration (Representative Jay Livingstone) – HB1575**

This multi-section bill will address a number of "nuts and bolts" issues in order to enhance the Assessing Department's administrative efficiency by:

- Giving municipalities 6 years to re-assess a property if its original assessment was based on information that is later found to be false or fraudulent;
- Clarifying that once the Department of Revenue (DOR) certifies tax rates, the recourse available to Boston residents is through the standard abatement process; and
- Allowing the City to maintain records of property unintentionally omitted from an annual assessment, subject to an audit by DOR, instead of the City filing that paperwork directly with DOR annually.

*Re-filed legislation

***An Act Relative to Hotel Rooms Booked Online (Representative Russell Holmes) – HB3324**

This bill will close an existing loophole in the state and local occupancy tax for hotel rooms sold online. Currently, online resellers calculate the occupancy tax based on the wholesale cost that they pay to the hotel, rather than the retail price they charge the consumer. This loophole short-changes the State and municipalities of the full taxable amount due.

An Act Relative to Municipal Lobbying (Representative Russell Holmes)

In the interest of increasing government transparency and accountability, along with maintaining the public's trust in government, this Home Rule Petition will allow greater access to information concerning efforts by third parties seeking to influence discretionary decision making at all levels of municipal government.

An Act Regarding the Composition of the Boston Art Commission (Senator Linda Dorcena Forry and Representative Nick Collins) – HB3460

This bill will add the Institute of Contemporary Art to the list of organizations that nominate members to the Boston Art Commission. The Institute for Contemporary Art is currently the only major institution in Boston not included.

Housing

Jim Brooks Community Stabilization Act (Representative Chynah Tyler)

This home rule petition will codify conditions under which landlords can evict a tenant or a former homeowner living in their foreclosed unit. Landlords will also be required to provide the City of Boston's Office of Housing Stability with a copy of any notice to quit, lease non-renewal letter, or notice of fixed term lease expiration within two days of serving the notice on the tenant or former homeowner. Ultimately, this will help protect residential tenants and former homeowners living in their homes post-foreclosure against arbitrary, unreasonable, discriminatory, or retaliatory evictions, and help ensure that tenants and former homeowners are aware of their rights under state law.

An Act Regarding Right of First Refusal in the Event of Foreclosure and Short Sales (Senator Linda Dorcena Forry and Representative Daniel Cullinane) – SB859/HB655

This bill will allow tenants and non-profits with a right of first refusal to purchase properties subject to foreclosure or short sale at fair market value. Lenders will be required to notify municipalities and tenants of the foreclosure. This will help achieve Mayor Walsh's goal of reducing displacement by affording renters and non-profits the opportunity to access a property before it is placed on the open market.

*Re-filed legislation

An Act to Promote Homelessness Prevention in Massachusetts (Senator Sal N. DiDomenico and Representative Chynah Tyler) – SB831/HB968

This bill will make legal representation in eviction proceedings a right, rather than an option. The purpose of this proposal is, in the short-term, to provide families facing eviction—and, in many cases, homelessness—with housing stability through a greater likelihood of success in eviction proceedings by requiring legal representation. Similar programs in cities such as New York City have shown that tenants are far more likely to win eviction cases when they are represented by legal counsel. Long-term, this bill will assist with housing and economic stability, avoiding recurring evictions, and preventing shelter entry in Massachusetts.

An Act Regarding State Income Tax Credit for Renting Unsubsidized Properties at Below Market Rents (Senator Joseph Boncore and Representative Kevin Honan) – SB1494/HB1534

This bill will incentivize landlords to charge below-market rents by providing an income tax credit of \$1,500 for landlords who provide unsubsidized units at below-market rents. Establishing an incentive for landlords to maintain affordable rents is an important tool that can keep long-term residents in their neighborhoods and can support the long-term social and financial stability of the City's most in need residents.

An Act Relative to Certain Affordable Housing in the South End Section of the City of Boston (Representative Byron Rushing)

The West Newton-Rutland-East Springfield redevelopment project necessitates certain exemptions from the Commonwealth's contract procurement and award laws. Although there have been reforms to the state statutes regarding filed sub-bids under Ch. 149, the changes are insufficient to allow the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) to move forward in a redevelopment effort of this kind. Without passage, the project must adhere to an extremely structured filed sub-bid process, with separate General Contractor and subcontractor selection. These exemptions will not compromise a fair and transparent process as the BHA must still adhere to the stringent regulations of its public funding sources. Similar legislation was enacted for other BHA redevelopment projects including Bromley-Heath, Old Colony, Maverick, Whittier and Orient Heights.

An Act Relative to Certain Affordable Housing in the East Boston Section of the City of Boston (Representative Adrian Madaro)

The Clippership Units at Heritage Housing Development project necessitate certain exemptions from the Commonwealth's contract procurement and award laws. Although there have been reforms to the state statutes regarding filed sub-bids under Ch. 149, the changes are insufficient to allow the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) to move forward in a redevelopment effort of this

*Re-filed legislation

kind. Without passage, the project must adhere to an extremely structured filed sub-bid process, with separate General Contractor and subcontractor selection. These exemptions will not compromise a fair and transparent process as the BHA must still adhere to the stringent regulations of its public funding sources. Similar legislation was enacted for other BHA redevelopment projects including Bromley-Heath, Old Colony, Maverick, Whittier and Orient Heights.

***An Act to Require Property Owners to Bear the Cost of Relocation Assistance (Representative Nick Collins) –HB3041**

Currently, if a tenant is displaced as a result of enforcement of the State Sanitary Code, the City is responsible for providing relocation assistance and funds to move the tenant's personal property from the real property. This legislation will enable cities and towns to be reimbursed for the cost of that relocation assistance by property owners if the relocation is necessitated by an owner's negligence. If the property owner failed to pay the costs, the outstanding fees would become a lien on the property.

***An Act Requiring Fair Housing Training for Real Estate Agents and Brokers (Representative Evandro Carvalho) – HB139**

This bill will require all real estate licensing education programs to include a fair housing training component. This training would include a mandatory 1 hour of fair housing education during pre-licensing and an additional 1 hour of fair housing education during each subsequent 2-year continuing education cycle. By including fair housing training as a requirement to the pre-licensing and continuing education process for real estate agents and brokers, there will be increased awareness and reductions in unintentional incidents of housing discrimination.

***An Act to Increase Fair Housing Protections for Survivors of Domestic Violence (Representative Jay Livingstone) – HB2317**

This legislation will add survivors of domestic violence as a protected class under fair housing laws. This bill will protect domestic violence survivors against unfair evictions, different rental agreement terms, and denial of lease/sale. These protections currently apply to public housing but not private housing.

An Act Relative to Filed Sub Bids (Representative Edward Coppinger) – HB1659

This legislation will allow awarding authorities to reject filed sub bids when less than three are received and are over budget and/or if a bidder is not qualified to perform the work. This will allow entities like the Boston Housing Authority to ensure that projects are done on budget and with high construction standards.

*Re-filed legislation

Health and Human Services

An Act Relative to Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Diversion (Representative Liz Malia) – HB2181

Under Mayor Walsh, the City of Boston has been a municipal leader nationwide in efforts to combat substance abuse. In 2014, the Mayor created the first municipal Office of Recovery Services in order to work on this issue at the local level. In 2016, the Mayor also created the City's first hotline support system designed to help people struggling with substance use and addiction access recovery resources. This legislation is designed to enhance all the strides the Commonwealth and the City have made over the last several years to address substance abuse in our communities. Specifically, this bill will:

- Expand access to appropriate in-patient substance abuse treatment by ensuring that 30-day treatment programs are covered by health insurance;
- Expand Good Samaritan laws to public health workers servicing active users;
- Require chain pharmacies to have drug collection kiosks; and,
- Entitle individuals facing first and second drug offenses to be examined to determine if they are drug dependent and would benefit from treatment. If yes, an individual will be able to request assignment to a drug treatment facility. This would stay all court proceedings until the treatment program is completed.

An Act Relative to Women's Health (Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz and Representative Chynah Tyler) – – SB507/HB2207

This bill will take several steps to increase access to birth control and prenatal/maternal care. First, it will ensure health coverage for the insertion and removal of long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARCs) is reimbursed separately from other services for MassHealth patients. Currently this procedure is bundled with obstetric services, which creates a disincentive for providers. Second, it increases the maximum allowed reimbursement rate to providers for insertion and removal of LARCs be increased by at least \$299. The current reimbursement rate makes it difficult for providers to keep an inventory or stock of LARCs creating a need for patients to make 2 doctor's visits for what can be done in one visit. Lastly, the bill directs the Department of Public Health to develop and implement a training program with the goal of expanding the number LARC providers.

An Act Amending the Victim Compensation Statute (Representative Evandro Carvalho) – HB742

This bill will allow families of homicide victims to access the Victim Compensation Fund at the State to pay for burial costs. Currently victims' families are prohibited from receiving these funds if the reason for death involved illegal activity.

*Re-filed legislation

**An Act Providing Authority to Conduct Fetal/Infant Mortality Review (FIMR)
(Representative Jeffrey Sánchez) – HB1219**

This bill will permit public health entities in Massachusetts to conduct in-depth reviews of individual infant and fetal deaths. It will also guide the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) to develop criteria in relation to local expertise and workforce capacity, which, if met, would permit local health departments to obtain timely access to vital records that are required for FIMR review.

*** An Act Improving Public Health through a Common Application for Core Food, Health And Safety-Net Programs (Senator Sal N. DiDomenico and Representative Jay Livingstone) – HB612/HB101**

This bill will establish a common application process for MassHealth and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) enabling individuals to apply for programs administered by the Department of Transitional Assistance simultaneously. This bill will reduce the “SNAP Gap” - the number of SNAP-eligible individuals not enrolled in SNAP at a given time. This is estimated to include over 570,000 individuals statewide, a significant portion of who live in Boston.

***An Act Relative to the Architectural Access Board (Senator James Timilty) – SB1379**

This bill will make the State Architectural Access Board’s building and access requirements substantially equivalent with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act. This will provide one universal access code for both the construction industry and the disability community in Massachusetts.

***An Act Relative to Lead Abatement (Representative Jeffrey Sánchez) – HB1626**

This bill will amend state law to define “lead poisoning” for the purposes of triggering lead abatement, emergency case management and civil liability to 10 micrograms per deciliter, lowering the level from 25. Additionally, it will double tax credits for property owners who de-lead their housing units from \$1,500 to \$3,000 per unit and will increase the penalties for housing discrimination to \$20,000 for a first offense.

***An Act Updating Veterans' Burial Expenses (Senator Michael Rush and Representative Chynah Tyler) – SB2026/HB1943**

Currently, municipalities partner with the Commonwealth to provide financial assistance to military families who are not able to cover funeral and burial expenses for a veteran. This bill will increase the caps currently in place on both the level of benefit and the total allowable expenses to keep pace with the cost of burials and services.

*Re-filed legislation

Public Safety

An Act Relative to Public Safety and Public Health Worker Protections (Senator Michael Rush) – SB1265

This legislation will make important updates to the law that protects the public health workforce in Massachusetts from infectious disease exposures. The bill will establish that if a patient refuses to provide a blood or bodily fluid specimen for the purposes of testing for the presence of an infectious disease that is dangerous to the public health, the facility must immediately notify the exposed first responder, who may petition the appropriate district court for an order requiring that the patient provide a blood or bodily fluid specimen.

An Act to Increase Residency Preference for Appointment at Boston Police Department and Boston Fire Department to Three Years (Representative Daniel Hunt) – HB3537

This special act will authorize the Boston Police Department and Boston Fire Department to implement a residency preference of three years prior to the date of civil service examination for individuals seeking appointment in the respective departments. Currently, individuals must only live in the City for 1 year prior to the civil service examination. By increasing the years of residency requirement to 3, the departments will attract individuals that are invested in the City and assist in diversifying the departments. This will also decrease the risk of residency fraud.

***An Act Increasing Penalties for Discharging a Firearm into a Dwelling, School Building or Park (Representative Russell Holmes) – HB3070**

This bill will create a one-year “from and after” sentence for shooting firearms into dwellings, school buildings, and parks. Every year, the Boston Police Department sees instances where innocent victims are inside their homes when random gun fire penetrates the property. This legislation will create a penalty that appropriately reflects the increased danger associated with these types of shootings.

***An Act Relative to Fire Protection Systems for Buildings and Structures (Representative Daniel Cullinane) – HB1244**

This legislation will give local fire departments the ability to enforce the fire code in state-owned buildings with the exception of the State House. Currently, the Boston Fire Department (BFD) does not have oversight of these buildings but is still expected to respond to calls. Sending our firefighters into these buildings puts their safety at risk and is a liability for the department.

*Re-filed legislation

***An Act Relative to a Suffolk County Regional Lockup Facility (Representative Daniel Cullinane) – HB758**

This bill will authorize the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department to assume the responsibility of all post-booking prisoner transports and provide a regional lockup facility to hold all prisoners. The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department is more appropriately equipped to maintain safe and secure transporting, custody and control. This change will result in a significant cost savings to the Boston Police Department and would allow more officers to be on the streets.

An Act Related to the Transportation of Illegal Firearms (Representative Russell Holmes) – HB3069

This bill will allow local law enforcement agencies to cite and fine owners of vehicles that are found to contain illegal firearms and to tow and store said vehicles. The funds related to the transportation of illegal firearms in vehicles will be deposited into the Commonwealth's Law Enforcement Trust Fund for use by the Boston Police Department subject to applicable laws governing the Fund.

***An Act Relative to Surviving Family Members of Public Emergency Medical Technicians (Senator Michael Rush and Representative Daniel Ryan) – SB1461/HB1445**

This bill will provide surviving family members of Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) killed in the line of duty the same state benefits as other public safety employees.

***An Act Requiring the Hands-Free Use of Mobile Telephones While Driving (Representative William Straus) – HB1892**

This bill prohibits the use of mobile telephones or electronic devices for voice communications while driving, requiring that only hands-free devices can be used. This is an important public safety measure that will help reduce injuries and fatalities on roads across Boston and the Commonwealth.

Transportation

***An Act Relative to Assault and Battery upon Public Employees (Representative Jeffrey Sánchez) – HB955**

After a number of assaults on parking enforcement officers, this issue emerged as a problem because the City could not aggressively pursue action against the offenders. This bill seeks an increase in the term of imprisonment to not less than 180 days or more than 5 years in a House of Correction or a fine not less than \$1,000 or more than \$10,000.

*Re-filed legislation

***An Act Relative to the Composition of the MassDOT Board of Directors (Senator Michael Rush) – SB1981**

This bill will add one seat, to be appointed by the Mayor of Boston, to the Board of Directors for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT). As the capital city, Boston lies at the heart of our State's subway and commuter rail systems, Silver Line and bus routes, and the intersection of I-93 and the Mass Pike. The decisions made by the MassDOT Board of Directors uniquely impact Boston and having City representation on this board will improve coordination and alignment of local and state transportation plans.

***An Act Exempting Certain School Buses from MassDOT Toll Collection (Representative Michael Moran) – HB2744**

Transportation costs consume nearly 10% of the Boston Public Schools budget. For some communities in Massachusetts along the Mass Pike and around the Central Artery Tunnel, daily tolls add to these costs. This bill will exempt all public school buses from road tolls.

***An Act Relative to the Protection of Pedestrians and Cyclists (Representative Daniel Hunt) – HB3428**

In October 2014, Mayor Walsh signed an ordinance requiring all large vehicles contracted with the City of Boston to be equipped with enhanced safety measures designed to prevent fatalities and further reduce the risks of a collision with pedestrians and cyclists. Mandated side guards on large trucks reduced deaths by 61 percent and serious injuries by 13 percent for cyclists in a recent UK study. Convex blind spot mirrors and cross-over mirrors allow drivers of large trucks to see the areas in-front of and to the sides better, preventing “right hook” incidents with cyclists. This bill aims to expand these protections statewide, by requiring all vehicles registered in the Commonwealth over 10,000 lbs to install sideguards and blind spot mirrors to help prevent deaths and injuries of unprotected road users.

***An Act Concerning the Safety of School Children Embarking and Disembarking School Buses (Representative Kevin Honan) – HB1271**

This legislation will enable school buses to be equipped with cameras to capture violations within school zones when the STOP arm on a school bus is deployed. Cameras would capture violations for vehicles that do not stop when a bus is picking up or dropping off children and if a vehicle goes faster than the posted limit of 20 MPH during set times.

*Re-filed legislation

***An Act Relative to the Composition of the Massachusetts Port Authority Board of Directors (Representative Daniel Cullinane) – HB1814**

This bill will add one seat, to be appointed by the Mayor of Boston, to the Board of the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport). Boston is home to New England's largest airport, its only full-service container terminal, and the oldest continuously operated port in the country. The decisions made by the Massport Board of Directors uniquely impact Boston and having City representation on this board will improve coordination and alignment of local and state goals.