

February/March 2007

## Boston's 2007-2008 Legislative Package Continued...

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### *Other proposed bills that may be of interest*

This section represents a second installment of bills in the City of Boston's 2007-2008 legislative package that may be of interest to Bureau members and the public.

Several proposed bills deal with **public safety** concerns. These bills would:

- Extend Boston's police jurisdiction onto Massachusetts Port Authority properties such as the land in the Seaport District
- Create an \$11 million annual fund that would increase community-based security patrols of public housing units in Boston
- Require all high rise condominiums to install automatic sprinkler systems as a fire precaution. Currently, buildings built before 1975, such as Harbor Towers and Charles River Park, are exempt from this requirement

In the area of **education reform**, the City has submitted a bill that:

- Authorizes the Superintendent of the Boston School Department to negotiate individual contracts with assistant headmasters, assistant principals and program managers because they are an integral part of the school management team. These positions would no longer be represented by the BASAS union. This same change was made with principals in the Education Reform Act of 1993

There are also numerous bills which address issues pertaining to **housing** in Massachusetts. Two of these bills would:

- Provide for a 90-day suspension on foreclosures as long as the homeowner is actively seeking assistance from the state's Homeownership Protection Program. The bill would also create a "rescue loan" fund to provide emergency loans to eligible recipients
- Allow revenue collected by linkage fees to be matched by state funds from the Massachusetts Community Preservation Trust Fund

Other proposed bills would:

- Abolish Suffolk County and transfer all responsibilities to the Commonwealth as had been done with seven other county governments. Boston now pays only 4% of the county expenses for its remaining correctional services
- Authorize the state Department of Telecommunications and Energy to regulate steam companies
- Allow registered voters to cast their ballots between the 20th day and 6th day preceding an Election Day
- Provide an income and excise tax credit to developers that satisfy certain "green building" requirements
- Increase the penalty for selling event tickets above face value without a license from a mere fine to an arrestable offense