

April/May 2009

Double Standard Exists for Managing Health Insurance

House budget shows wide gap between state and municipal control

A double standard exists between the state and its municipalities in the management of employee health insurance. The most recent example of this situation is the House's recommended FY10 budget that will generate savings in the cost of state employee health insurance which would be impossible for municipalities to achieve in scope or speed. [MORE>](#)

State Pension Reform Targets "King for a Day"

Critical language changes are needed to define income and prevent abuse

The House and Senate have passed separate pension reform bills that both propose significant improvements to the flawed accidental disability pension calculation for public safety employees. The House bill is preferable but further change is needed to prevent possible abuse and to control costs. [MORE>](#)

State Quinn Bill Expenses Under Fire

Boston only required to fund its half of Quinn Bill police salary costs

The House's FY10 state budget approved on May 1st restored \$25M of the state portion for the Quinn Bill salary benefits for local police officers. The total state share of \$52M had been eliminated in the House Ways and Means Committee's recommended budget. As it now stands, Boston may lose about half of the state reimbursement of \$10.7M expected in FY10. In future years, the City should pay only the share that it can be certain will be reimbursed by the Commonwealth. [MORE>](#)

Boston Puts Recovery Funds to Use

Operational support limited to the School and Police Departments

Supplemental federal funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) have been factored into the Mayor's recommended FY10 operating budget for the School and Police Departments. Federal ARRA funds for direct operational rather than capital purposes are limited to these two departments and will be used to retain 250 positions. Because these funds are for one or two years only, they will help mitigate but will not solve the fiscal challenges facing Boston. [MORE>](#)

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