

February 2013

## Boston's 2013-2014 Legislative Agenda

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*Top priority is bill to provide flexibility and reform for underperforming schools*

The Mayor's [legislative package](#) for the 2013-2014 session of the Massachusetts General Court consists of 49 bills evenly split between new bills (24) and re-files of bills previously submitted (25). The bills cover issues in 10 different policy categories such as education, housing, public safety, transportation, and government efficiency. One of the City's top priorities for this legislative session is *An Act to Promote Public School Success*, a comprehensive bill that focuses on improving student performance in state designated Level 3 schools that represent the lowest 20% of schools statewide in terms of student performance. It also aims to achieve greater collaboration between public school systems and charter schools.

### Education Reform

The Mayor's bill is one of four bills addressing the need for more reform for the state's underperforming schools. Key points are:

- Extending "turn-around" powers and support grants to Level 3 schools
- Eliminating the cap on in-district charter schools and the approval requirements for the renewal of these schools
- Supporting the growth of flexible Innovation Schools by clarifying the voting and approval process
- Extending the school day with compensation and schedules determined by a new process
- A series of initiatives involving more collaboration between a school district and state charter schools in the district

### Municipal Operations

- A bill that would remove the exempt status of property used for commercial purposes on MBTA property
- A bill to authorize the Mayor of Boston to appoint members of the Boston Licensing Board. Now appointments are made by the Governor who filed a similar bill last year.
- A bill to allow for the taxation of hotel rooms sold online

### Housing

- A new bill to authorize municipalities to adopt local laws to issue and serve orders to correct blighted properties and to effectively collect fines imposed
- A bill to facilitate the requirement that landlords delead properties rented to families with young children by doubling the tax credit for lead paint removal and stiffening penalties in civil cases

### Transportation

- A bill permitting the use of cameras to capture vehicles that disregard traffic control signals or block intersections
- A bill to allow the Registry of Motor Vehicles to suspend a license if notified by a municipal parking clerk of a driver not responding to 5 parking violations
- A bill to reduce speed limits in thickly settled neighborhoods from 30 to 25 mph