

Boston's 2013-2014 Legislative Agenda 2

A review of selected bills in five policy areas

The Mayor's [legislative package](#) for the 2013-2014 session of the Massachusetts General Court consists of 49 bills covering issues in 11 different policy categories. [In February](#), the Research Bureau described selected bills in the policy areas of education reform, municipal operations, housing, and transportation. This article describes a few bills in the areas of economic development, public safety, public health and energy & environment.

Public Safety

- A bill that would provide concurrent jurisdiction on all non-airport and non-port Massport property for Boston police officers
- A bill to authorize the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department to operate a regional lockup facility and assume responsibility for all post-booking prison transportation

Economic Development

- A new bill to enable the Boston Industrial Developing Funding Authority (BIDFA) to issue bonds without a costly trust agreement and to expand the use of bonds it issues to include affordable housing
- A bill to expand the number of All-Alcohol and Beer & Wine licenses allotted to the City of Boston, which is now at its cap for both types

Public Health

- A bill that would require the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to provide public health data to the Boston Public Health Commission

Gun Reform & Violence Prevention

- A new bill to create a gun crimes offender registry similar to the sex offender registry
- A bill to bring Massachusetts into compliance with the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) by requiring courts to send mental health records to NICS for the purpose of firearms licensing. This bill would prevent people with mental illness from purchasing a handgun undetected by NICS.
- A new comprehensive bill to address the next phase of habitual offender sentencing reform which provides for stricter sentences for repeat firearm felonies, a reduction in mandatory sentences for low-level drug offenders, higher weights of drugs needed for each level of mandatory sentence, an increase in the age of juveniles from 17 to 18 and more.

Energy & Environment

- A bill to expand the bottle bill to include more drink containers (e.g., water, sports drinks, flavored teas, and juice bottles) and establish a fund for recycling and other environmental projects paid by forfeited deposits
- A new bill that would require commercial building owners to sub-meter all commercial tenant spaces, or floors of 10,000 sq. ft. and larger by 2025 and provide monthly statements of electricity use and charges to these tenants
- A new bill that would establish a statewide requirement for utilities to provide customers with building level energy use data