



CITY OF BOSTON • MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
THOMAS M. MENINO

August 24, 2010

TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors:

I transmit herewith for your approval a home rule petition to the General Court entitled "Petition for a Special Law Re: The Certification and Training of All Levels of Fire Service Personnel."

Section 165 of Chapter 6 of the Massachusetts General Laws empowers the Massachusetts Fire Training Council to serve as the sole certifying agency for the certification and training of all levels of fire service personnel within the commonwealth. Further, pursuant to Section 165A of Chapter 6, the Massachusetts firefighting academy is the sole agency responsible for the training of all fire service personnel in the commonwealth.

The Massachusetts firefighting academy does not train members of the Boston Fire Department. The Boston Fire Department operates its own training academy and trains firefighters from Boston to National Standards, but has no clear mechanism for certification. Boston does not have a representative on the Massachusetts Fire Training Council and the Massachusetts Fire Training Council has difficulty meeting the certification requirements of a department as large as Boston. The Boston Fire Department has its own Fire Academy made up of Nationally Certified Instructors, a Tactical Training Facility, a Flashover Simulator and a Hazardous Material Training Center.

This home rule petition would exempt the Boston Fire Department from dependence on the Fire Training Council for certification and would allow the Department to establish its own certification program that meets current national standards. I urge your Honorable Body to join me in this effort to improve the training we provide for the Boston Fire Department and surrounding communities.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Menino
Mayor of Boston

CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDERED: That a petition to the General Court, accompanied by a bill for a special law relating to the City of Boston, to be filed with an attested copy of this Order be, and hereby is, approved under Clause One (1) of Section Eight (8) of Article Two (2), as amended, of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to the end that legislation be adopted precisely as follows, except for clerical or editorial changes of form only:

**PETITION FOR A SPECIAL LAW RE: THE CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING
OF ALL LEVELS OF FIRE SERVICE PERSONNEL.**

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 6, Section 165; Chapter 6, Section 165A; or any other provision of general or special law to the contrary, the Boston Fire Department shall have the authority to train all levels of fire service personnel.

SECTION 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 6, Section 165; Chapter 6, Section 165A or any other provision of general or special law to the contrary, the Boston Fire Department shall have the authority to certify all levels of City of Boston fire service personnel trained by the Boston Fire Department.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

**I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT
THE FOREGOING, IF PASSED IN
THE ABOVE FORM, WILL BE IN
ACCORDANCE WITH LAW.**



WILLIAM F. SINNOTT
CORPORATION COUNSEL SPN