



***City of Boston***  
***State Legislative Agenda***

**Mayor Martin J. Walsh**  
**2015-2016 Session**

## **Economic Development**

### **An Act Modernizing the Business Licensing Process**

(Senator William Brownsberger and Representative Evandro Carvalho)

The City issues a myriad of different operating licenses to businesses through two administrative bodies: the Mayor's Office of Consumer Affairs & Licensing and the Boston Licensing Board. At times, this process can be duplicative and burdensome for our local businesses. This legislation proposes to make changes to existing licensing requirements that would further the Mayor's goals of streamlining the regulatory process and strengthening small businesses citywide. This plan includes providing local discretion to:

- Eliminate the Common Victuallers (CV) license requirement for non-alcohol businesses wishing to operate during standard business hours;
- Eliminate specialty licenses for billiard tables, bowling alleys, automatic amusement devices and fortune tellers;
- Determine at what capacity certain establishments can be exempt from the Non-Live Entertainment License requirements;
- Determine at what capacity certain establishments can be exempt from the Live Entertainment License requirements for instrumental/vocal music ; and
- Allow restaurants and bars to remain open past 2 a.m.

### **An Act Relative to Licensing Penalties** (Representative Aaron Michlewitz)

Currently, the City can only levy penalties such as warnings, suspensions, or revocations for entertainment and liquor license violations. This can have unintended consequences that are detrimental to the employees who rely on the income from those service industry jobs. This legislation provides regulators with another disciplinary tool by allowing monetary fines to be levied when appropriate.

### **An Act Relative to the Massachusetts Next Generation Network Initiative Promoting Gigabit Broadband Networks** (Representative Evandro Carvalho)

The Next Generation Network Initiative would provide matching funds to support municipalities or regional planning organizations in expanding municipal broadband throughout the Commonwealth. These networks save cities millions of dollars in telecommunications costs and promote the adoption of technology in government and schools.

**\*An Act Improving the Earned Income Tax Credit** (Senator Cynthia S. Creem)

The cost of living in Massachusetts has significantly outpaced the assistance that the EITC provides. An increase in the amount of the state EITC to 30% of the federal tax credit is needed in order to help low-income residents of Massachusetts maintain their standard of living in our high-cost state.

**\*An Act Relative to Notification of Large Job Layoffs** (Representative Dan Hunt)

The WARN Act is a federal law that governs situations under which companies are required to give advance notice of “large” layoffs. This bill would tighten the state version of the law to provide greater protections to workers by reducing the thresholds that trigger the WARN Act. Through this legislation, career centers and other providers will have more time to connect laid-off workers with the education, training and job placement services needed to get them back into the workforce.

**An Act Relative to Industrial Development Finance Authorities** (Representative Dan Hunt)

Through the Boston Industrial Development Finance Authority (BIDFA), Boston is the only municipality in the Commonwealth that has the ability to issue tax-exempt bonds for development projects. In the City of Boston currently, MassDevelopment (MDFA) issues the majority of tax-exempt bonds for non-profit organizations and has exclusive rights for the issuance of tax-exempt bonds for affordable housing developments. Elsewhere in the country, most major and/or capital cities have an entity with exclusive rights to issue tax-exempt bonds within that city’s borders; Boston does not have this ability. This legislation seeks to bring Boston into alignment with comparable cities and ensure that Boston is capitalizing on the development taking place in our city and impacting our residents. In an attempt to maximize the benefit of BIDFA, this legislation seeks to:

- Eliminate the need of a corporate trustee in bond transactions;
- Allow any municipality with an active IDFA to be the exclusive conduit issuer for bond financing within its borders; and
- Allow BIDFA to issue tax-exempt debt for affordable rental housing developments.

**An Act to Establish a Commission to Study the Feasibility of Creating and Funding a Universal College Savings Account** (Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz and Representative Byron Rushing)

College Savings Accounts (CSAs) are long-term asset-building accounts established for children as early as birth and allowed to grow over their lifetime. CSAs have been shown to dramatically improve the likelihood of a child attending and succeeding in college. This is a tangible strategy to improve access for low-income children to post-secondary education and the lifetime

success that it is shown to create. Both San Francisco and New Hampshire have successful models that provide each child a CSA with a baseline amount of money, to which additional funds can be contributed and matched throughout the child's life.

**\*An Act Relative to Creating a Maximum Allowable Check-cashing Rate**

(Senator Linda Dorcena Forry and Representative Kay Khan)

Massachusetts is one of only eight states that does not regulate check-cashing rates. Many check cashing locations in the City of Boston are located in low-income neighborhoods and often times charge high fees for these services. This negatively impacts our residents who do not have bank accounts. This legislation would create maximum rates for check-cashing to ensure that more of our residents' money is going into their pockets.

**Education**

**\*An Act Relative to Special Education Evaluation and Referral** (Senator Sal DiDomenico)

This bill seeks to promote collaboration between Early Intervention providers and district schools to promote a smooth transition for students and families to public schools. This legislation establishes a mandatory reporting requirement to ensure that school districts have at least 6 months to assess and plan for a child's placement on their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

**\*An Act to Promote a Coordinated Public Schools Focus on Students with Disabilities**

(Senator Sal DiDomenico)

This bill promotes a coordinated focus on students with disabilities across district and charter schools. This legislation requires that a Memorandum of Understanding in place between school districts and Horace Mann charters explicitly address which Local Education Agency is responsible for compliance with special education mandates. It would also require that a district representative be present at meetings during which a charter school is determining placement for a student with a disability, and that the district representative has the ability to present in-district programs that are suitable options to be considered.

**\*An Act Relative to Special Education Funding** (Senator Sal DiDomenico)

The state requires that districts provide comprehensive special education services but state funding via the Chapter 70 and Circuit Breaker formulas has not kept pace with the true cost of services provided by the district. This bill would allow districts to include the actual number of students with disabilities enrolled into the Chapter 70 formula (enrollment is currently capped at 3.75% of total students) and would provide Circuit Breaker reimbursement to districts for 75% of costs above 3x the average pupil (currently reimbursement is triggered at costs 4x the average pupil).

\*denotes re-filed legislation

**\*An Act Relative to the School Turnaround Process** (Representative Kevin Honan)

The Joint Resolution Committee (JRC) is a 3-member arbitration body put in place to finalize unresolved issues within a Level 4 school turnaround process. This bill makes three changes to strengthen that turnaround process by: (1) allowing one or more parts of a JRC decision to be opened for renegotiation without opening up the entire agreement; (2) clarifying that JRC decisions would stay in effect if a turnaround plan is renewed at the end of the first 3 years; and (3) requiring that the transition period out of underperforming status be at least 5 years with the JRC agreement remaining in place over this time so the school may retain the flexibilities that allowed the school to turn around and ensure that gains persist.

**\*An Act Relative to School Transportation Parity**

(Senator William Brownsberger and Representative Dan Ryan)

Transportation costs consume nearly 10% of the Boston Public Schools budget. Opportunities for cost savings are found in maximizing the efficiency of our school bus transit program and the use of public transportation. School districts are responsible for providing transportation for both district and charter students, but are often unable to apply cost-saving measures to charter schools. This bill promotes greater parity between district and charter school transportation in an effort to reduce costs by: (1) maintaining the requirement that the district pays the full cost of transportation if a charter agrees to transportation schedules set by district; (if not, the district and charter would split the cost 50/50); and (2) prohibiting charters from billing the district for 3rd party transportation, as is the policy with Boston Public Schools.

**An Act Exempting Certain School Buses from MassDOT Toll Collection**

(Representative Michael Moran)

Transportation costs consume nearly 10% of the Boston Public Schools budget. For some communities in Massachusetts along the Mass Pike and around the Central Artery Tunnel, daily tolls add to these costs. This bill would exempt all public school buses from road tolls.

**Energy, Environment and Open Space**

**An Act to Establish a Home Heating Commission** (Representative Paul Mark)

As a result of rising energy costs, inefficient heating systems, and recent patterns of severe weather, a record number of Massachusetts households are in need of financial assistance to adequately heat their homes. In Boston alone, nearly 20,000 working families and elderly and disabled individuals living on fixed incomes are served by the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). This program is essential, but available funds are not keeping pace with the need and do not provide a long-term solution to reducing home heating costs

and promoting energy efficiency. This bill would establish a Home Heating Commission to study opportunities to shift homeowners away from inefficient and carbon-intensive heating systems toward cleaner and more affordable alternatives.

**\*An Act Relative to the Installation of Electrical Sub-Meters** (Representative Ed Coppinger)

The bill would require tenant spaces larger than 10,000 square feet in any commercial building that exceeds 50,000 gross square feet to be sub-metered by 2025. Sub-metering would provide building managers and tenants actionable, monthly information about their energy use so they can more effectively manage and reduce electricity consumption and costs.

**Government Efficiency and Civic Engagement**

**An Act Relative to Voting Precincts in the City of Boston**

(Senator Anthony Petrucci and Representative Aaron Michlewitz)

The purpose of this Home Rule Petition is to establish additional polling location in precincts with greater than 3,000 registered voters in Boston. Downtown precincts and those in the South Boston Waterfront have grown dramatically, due to large-scale, multi-unit developments. Adding an additional polling location will shorten wait times for voters, alleviate overcrowding at polling places, and allow election officers to be more efficient and thorough. These precincts include: W3/P1 (North End), W3/P6 (Beacon Hill, Financial District and Waterfront), W3/P7 (South End), W3/P8 (Downtown and Chinatown,) W5/P1 (Chinatown, Bay Village, Downtown), and W6/P1 (South Boston to Broadway Station, and Waterfront). There would be no change to precinct boundaries or representation.

**An Act Relative to Election Nomination Petitions in the City of Boston**

(Senator Michael Rush and Representative Liz Malia)

This special act will create a more equitable process for candidates of elected office. As it stands now, the signature of a Boston voter is only valid for one candidate for mayor and district city councilor, respectively, and up to four candidates for city council at-large candidates. This home rule petition will allow voters to sign nomination papers for as many candidates as they choose providing the opportunity for more candidates to get on the ballot. This not only benefits those who seek elected office but also the voters who may now have more options when entering the voting booth.

**An Act Removing the City of Boston Parks Department from the Approval of Street Closure Permitting Process** (Representative Angelo Scaccia)

This Home Rule Petition will simplify the administrative burden placed on both Boston residents and the City of Boston by removing the requirement that the Commissioner of Parks and

Recreation approve all street closure applications for recreational events. This bill maintains the requirement that both the Boston Police Commissioner and Commissioner of the Boston Transportation Department approve any street closures for recreational purposes or events.

**\*An Act Relative to Changing the Name of the State-Boston Retirement System to the Boston Retirement System** (Representative Aaron Michlewitz)

Currently the City of Boston's retirement system is referenced throughout the Massachusetts General Laws and Code of Massachusetts Regulations by four different names. This lack of consistency creates confusion for the members and can cause issues with litigation and investments. This Home Rule Petition will ensure the uniform use of the name "Boston Retirement System" throughout state law.

**An Act Relative to an Easement for Merrimac Street Public Way** (Senator Anthony Petruccelli)

As part of the construction of the Edward W. Brooke Courthouse in the City of Boston's West End, the Commonwealth and City agreed that a portion of the state-owned land would be used to widen the street, which the City would own and maintain. This legislation finalizes this change in use and allows the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance to formally convey this land, already converted into a portion of Merrimac and New Chardon Streets, to the City of Boston.

**\*An Act Relative to Assessing Administration** (Representative Jay Livingstone)

This multi-section bill addresses a number of "nuts and bolts" issues to enhance the Assessing Department's administrative efficiency by:

- Giving municipalities 6 years to re-assess a property, if its original assessment was based on information that is later found to be false or fraudulent;
- Clarifying that once the Department of Revenue (DOR) certifies tax rates, the recourse available to Boston residents is through the standard abatement process; and

Allowing the City to maintain records of property unintentionally omitted from an annual assessment, subject to an audit by the Department of Revenue, instead of the City filing that paperwork directly with DOR annually.

**\*An Act Relative to Hotel Rooms Booked Online** (Representative Russell Holmes)

This bill would close an existing loophole in the state and local occupancy tax for hotel rooms sold online. Currently, online resellers calculate the occupancy tax based on the wholesale cost that they pay to the hotel, rather than the retail price they charge the consumer. This loophole short-changes the state and municipalities of the full taxable amount due.

## **An Act Relative to Segregated Reserve Funds in the City of Boston**

(Senator Anthony Petrucci)

This Home Rule Petition would eliminate a requirement placed on the Boston Public Schools in 1986 to maintain a segregated reserve fund for extraordinary expenditures. This is an antiquated requirement that was created during a time of fiscal uncertainty for the City of Boston, which is no longer needed.

## **Housing**

### **An Act to Address the Need for Additional Resources for the Development of Affordable Housing for Low-Income Seniors** (Representative Kevin Honan)

This legislation provides a source of funding for elderly affordable housing from the state's Affordable Housing Trust Fund. The 2010 U.S. Census found that Boston had nearly 30,000 low-income elderly households (renters and homeowners). The City expects that number to grow by more than 14,000 households by 2030. The goal of this legislation is to assist with the production of 1,500 units of new housing for low-income elderly renters, especially those who are severely rent burdened, by 2030. This would create a replica of the Federal 202 program at the state level ensuring that a percentage of the Commonwealth's affordable housing dollars will go towards our aging populations.

### **An Act Relative to Tax Incentives for the Development of Middle-Income/Workforce Housing** (Senator Anthony Petrucci and Representative Kevin Honan)

As part of the Mayor's 2030 Housing Plan, this legislation will encourage private developers to create housing that is affordable to the middle class through property tax incentives. The City will designate workforce housing special tax assessment (WH-STTA) zones in areas that present an opportunity for increased development of middle-income housing. Within these zones, private developers of middle-income/workforce housing will not have to pay property taxes during the two-year construction phase and then will pay 25% in year one, 50% in year two, 75% in year three, and 100% in subsequent years as an incentive to maintain affordable rents. This would be a modest reduction in tax revenue for the City during development and stabilization of certain housing projects.

### **An Act to Facilitate Disposition of Surplus Property for the Development of Affordable and Workforce Housing** (Senator Linda Dorcena Forry and Representative Russell Holmes)

As part of Mayor Walsh's 2030 Housing Plan, the Department of Neighborhood Development is working on the disposition of transit-oriented parcels in the City. Many of these are state-owned and could make affordable and workforce housing a feasible option for developers. This

piece of legislation would allow municipalities to: (1) petition the Commonwealth to designate certain state-owned properties as surplus; and (2) further petition the Commonwealth to dispose of surplus properties below fair market rate when there are re-use restrictions placed on the property. Re-use restrictions include affordable and workforce housing restrictions that are consistent with municipal planning purposes.

### **An Act Requiring Fair Housing Training for Real Estate Agents and Brokers**

(Representative Evandro Carvalho)

This legislation would require real estate licensing education to include a fair housing training component. This training would include a mandatory 2 hours of fair housing education during pre-licensing and an additional 1 hour of fair housing education during each subsequent 2-year continuing education cycle. By including fair housing training as a requirement to the pre-licensing and continuing education process for real estate agents and brokers, there will be an increased awareness for and a reduction in unintentional incidents of housing discrimination.

### **An Act Relative to Certain Affordable Housing in the City of Boston – Orient Heights**

(Senator Anthony Petrucci)

The Orient Heights redevelopment project necessitates certain exemptions from the Commonwealth's contract procurement and award laws. Without passage, the project must adhere to an extremely structured filed sub-bid process, with separate General Contractor and subcontractor selection, adding cost and time to the project. These exemptions will not compromise a fair and transparent process as the Boston Housing Authority must still adhere to the stringent regulations of its public funding sources. In addition, the proposed legislation provides that the state-funded public housing developed at Orient Heights may be owned, maintained and operated by an entity other than a public housing authority, subject to the proper contractual requirements and land-use restrictions. Unlike federal law, state law does not expressly permit such an ownership structure, and thus this provision is needed for the redevelopment of the state-funded public housing at Orient Heights in order to secure private financing. Similar legislation was enacted for other Boston Housing Authority redevelopment projects, including Bromley-Heath, Old Colony, and Maverick.

### **An Act Relative to Certain Affordable Housing in the City of Boston – Whittier Street**

(Representative Gloria Fox)

The Whittier Street redevelopment project necessitates certain exemptions from the Commonwealth's contract procurement and award laws. Although there have been reforms to the state statutes regarding filed sub-bids under Ch. 149, the changes are insufficient to allow the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) to move forward in a redevelopment effort of this kind. Without passage, the project must adhere to an extremely structured filed sub-bid process,

with separate General Contractor and subcontractor selection. These exemptions will not compromise a fair and transparent process as the BHA must still adhere to the stringent regulations of its public funding sources. Similar legislation was enacted for other Boston Housing Authority redevelopment projects, including Bromley-Heath, Old Colony, and Maverick.

**An Act Relative to Blighted Properties** (Representative Dan Cullinane)

A severely blighted property can affect the value of residents' homes, residents' perception of safety, and the willingness to invest in neighborhoods. This legislation defines what a blighted property is and creates a process by which a municipality can foreclose on properties that are deemed as such. The legislation would also limit the amount of time that an owner of a blighted property has to petition to vacate a decree of foreclosure.

**An Act to Increase Fair Housing Protections for Survivors of Domestic Violence**

(Representative Gloria Fox)

This legislation adds survivors of domestic violence as a protected class under fair housing laws. This bill will protect domestic violence survivors against unfair evictions, different rental agreement terms, and denial of lease/sale. These protections currently apply to public housing, but not private.

**An Act to Require Property Owners to Bear the Cost of Relocation Assistance**

(Representative Nick Collins)

Currently, if a tenant is displaced as a result of enforcement of the State Sanitary Code, the City is responsible for providing relocation assistance and funds to move the tenant's personal property from the real property. This legislation would enable cities and towns to be reimbursed for the cost of that relocation assistance by property owners if the relocation is necessitated by an owner's negligence. If the property owner failed to pay the costs, the outstanding fees would become a lien on the property.

**Health and Human Services**

**\*An Act Relative to Diversion to Substance Abuse Treatment for Non-Violent Drug Offenders**

(Representative Liz Malia)

This bill would provide individuals facing first and second time non-violent, drug offenses an opportunity to be evaluated by a licensed addiction specialist to determine if they are drug-dependent and would benefit from treatment. If so, the person can request assignment to a drug treatment facility. Their drug offense court proceedings would be stayed until the drug treatment program is completed.

\*denotes re-filed legislation

**\*An Act Relative to Lead Abatement** (Representative Jeffrey Sánchez)

This bill provides a local option to allow municipal health departments to adopt a more stringent blood lead level than the state standard to better protect children's health. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend a lead level no higher than 5 micrograms per deciliter, but Massachusetts' lead level is currently set at 25 micrograms per deciliter – five times the federal standard. This bill also increases tax credits available to unit owners who wish to de-lead their properties and increases the penalties for landlords who discriminate against renting to families with children.

**An Act Relative to the Veteran Burial Benefit** (Senator Michael Rush)

Currently, municipalities partner with the Commonwealth to provide financial assistance to military families who are not able to cover funeral and burial expenses for a veteran. This bill increases the caps currently in place on both the level of benefit and the total allowable expenses, to keep pace with the cost of burials and services.

**\*An Act Relative to Special Juveniles**

(Senator Cynthia Stone Creem and Representative Louis Kafka)

Under federal law, abused, abandoned, or neglected immigrant youth up to age 21 are eligible to apply for "Special Immigrant Juveniles Status" to access a path to lawful permanent residence. In Massachusetts, these cases are heard by Probate and Family Courts, but this Court only serves youth up to age 18. This bill would allow Probate and Family Court to hear these particular cases for applicants up to age 21.

**An Act Relative to Medicare Savings Programs**

(Senator Dan Wolf and Representative Denise Garlick)

Medicare Savings Programs (MSPs) use Medicaid funds to help reduce out-of-pocket costs for low-income Medicare beneficiaries. MSPs were created by the federal government, but states have discretion in implementation. Currently, Massachusetts MSPs have the lowest allowable eligibility limits ranging from 100-135% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). This legislation will increase the eligibility levels to 165% FPL with no asset test in order to expand access to MSPs for more low-income seniors.

**An Act Relative to Disability Commission Expansion** (Senator William Brownsberger)

This bill would allow a municipality to expand its commission on disability from 9 to 13 members, to provide for a broader representation of the disability community.

**\*An Act Relative to the Architectural Access Board** (Senator James Timilty)

This bill makes the state Architectural Access Board's building and access requirements substantially equivalent with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act. This will provide one universal access code for both the construction industry and the disability community in Massachusetts.

**Public Safety**

**An Act Increasing Penalties for Discharging a Firearm into a Dwelling or School Building**  
(Representative Russell Holmes)

This bill creates a one-year "from and after" sentence for shooting firearms into dwellings and into school buildings. Every year, the Boston Police Department sees instances where innocent victims are inside their homes when random gun fire penetrates the property. This legislation creates a penalty that appropriately reflects the increased danger associated with these types of shootings.

**An Act Regarding Asset Forfeiture** (Senator Sal DiDomenico)

This bill would allow for any money seized in connection with prostitution or human trafficking to be distributed equally between the prosecuting district attorney or attorney general, and the city, town, or state police department, or sheriff's department involved in the seizure. The bill would also specify that the money would be used to fund anti-prostitution/anti-trafficking efforts.

**\*An Act Relative to a Suffolk County Regional Lockup Facility** (Representative Dan Cullinane)

This bill would authorize the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department to assume the responsibility of all post-booking prisoner transport and provide a regional lockup facility to hold all prisoners. The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department is more appropriately equipped to maintain safe and secure transporting, custody and control. This change would result in a significant cost savings to the Boston Police Department and would allow more officers to be on the streets.

**\*An Act to Provide Concurrent Police Authority for MassPort Properties**  
(Representative Nick Collins)

This bill would provide concurrent jurisdiction on all Massachusetts Port Authority (MassPort) properties for the local law enforcement agency. Currently, these are the only areas of the City in which Boston Police cannot respond to residents and businesses.

## **An Act Relative to Surviving Family Members of Public Emergency Medical Technicians**

(Senator Michael Rush and Representative Dan Ryan)

This bill would provide surviving family members of Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) killed in the line of duty the same state benefits as other public safety employees.

## **\* An Act Relative to Fire Protection Systems for Buildings and Structures**

(Representative Dan Cullinane)

This legislation would give local fire departments the ability to enforce the fire code in state-owned buildings with the exception of the State House. Currently, the Boston Fire Department (BFD) does not have oversight of these buildings but is still expected to respond to calls. Sending our firefighters into these buildings puts their safety at risk and is a liability for the department. This legislation also will allow local fire departments to sign off on permitting and inspection of state-owned buildings. This ensures that the fire systems in these buildings are up to date and when BFD is called to respond, they have the building specifications on file.

## **\*An Act Relative to Local Certification of Firefighter Training** (Representative Nick Collins)

This legislation would allow certification of firefighters to be conducted according to the individual needs of communities. Right now, BFD's certification must meet state-determined requirements. This means that our firefighters must be trained in areas that aren't applicable in the city (e.g. forest fires). With this legislation, BFD could create and certify a training plan that is most applicable to the City of Boston, while still meeting national standards.

## **\*An Act Relative to Retired Boston Police Officers** (Representative Dan Hunt)

This legislation would allow retired Boston Police officers to fulfill public safety details. The Police Commissioner would have exclusive authority to appoint retired officers as special officers. Currently, some details are not filled due to a high volume of requests. Because of their training and familiarity with the city, retired police officers are ideal candidates to help fill these requests.

## **Transportation**

### **\*An Act Relative to Speed Limits** (Representative Liz Malia)

One of the most frequent requests the Boston Transportation Department receives is to reduce the speed limits on neighborhood streets for increased safety and improved quality of life. This bill would allow municipalities to reduce the speed limit on local roads, in certain urban areas, from 30 to 25 MPH.

### **An Act to Protect Vulnerable Road Users by Requiring Certain Vehicles to be Equipped with Side Under-ride Guards and Blind Spot Mirrors**

(Senator William Brownsberger and Representative Dan Hunt)

Since 2010, 11 cyclists in Boston have died as a result of crashes with motor vehicles, and seven of those fatal incidents occurred between a cyclist and either a truck or a bus. In October 2014, Mayor Walsh signed an ordinance requiring all large vehicles contracted with the City of Boston to be equipped with enhanced safety measures designed to prevent fatalities and further reduce the risks of a collision with pedestrians and cyclists. Mandated side guards on large trucks reduced deaths by 61 percent and serious injuries by 13 percent for cyclists in a recent UK study. Convex blind spot mirrors and cross-over mirrors allow drivers of large trucks to see the areas in-front of and to the sides better, preventing “right hook” incidents with cyclists. This bill aims to expand these protections statewide, by requiring all vehicles registered in the Commonwealth over 10,000 lbs to install sideguards and blind spot mirrors to help prevent deaths and injuries of unprotected road users.

### **An Act Relative to the Collection of Mobility Study Data**

(Senator Michael Rush and Representative Ed Coppinger)

This bill would require MassDOT to create a database for data collected in mobility studies conducted in connection with construction projects including counts for bicycle, pedestrian, truck and public transportation modes. MassDOT-funded contractors would be required to provide DOT with this information in a standardized, digital format and all data would be made publicly available to increase transparency, reduce duplicate study costs, and promote data-driven solutions to transportation challenges.

### **\*An Act to Promote School Zone Safety** (Representative Kevin Honan)

This legislation would enable school buses to be equipped with cameras to capture violations within school zones, when the STOP arm on a school bus is deployed. Cameras would capture violations for vehicles that do not stop when a bus is picking up or dropping off children and if a vehicle goes faster than the posted limit of 20 MPH during set times.

### **An Act Relative to the Composition of the MassDOT Board of Directors**

(Senator Anthony Petrucci)

This bill would add one seat, to be appointed by the Mayor of Boston, to the Board of Directors for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT). As the capital city, Boston lies at the heart of our state's subway and commuter rail systems, Silver Line and bus routes, and the intersection of I-93 and the Pike. The decisions made by the MassDOT Board of

Directors uniquely impact Boston and having City representation on this board will improve coordination and alignment of local and state transportation plans.

**An Act Relative to the Composition of the Massachusetts Port Authority Board of Directors**  
(Representative Dan Cullinane)

This bill would add one seat, to be appointed by the Mayor of Boston, to the Board of the Massachusetts Port Authority (MassPort). Boston is home to New England's largest airport, its only full-service container terminal, and the oldest continuously operated port in the country. The decisions made by the MassPort Board of Directors uniquely impact Boston and having City representation on this board will improve coordination and alignment of local and state goals.

**\*An Act Relative to Noncriminal Disposition of Parking Violations**  
(Senator Anthony Petrucci and Representative Ed Coppinger)

This bill strengthens the enforcement of unpaid parking tickets or vehicle excise bills by lowering the threshold of violations required to allow the Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) to reject a car renewal (from 2 unpaid tickets down to 1) and allow a municipality to boot an out-of-state car (from 5 unpaid tickets down to 3) and gives the RMV the ability to reject a new car registration or suspend a driver's license if parking violations remain outstanding.

**\*An Act Relative to Assault and Battery upon Public Employees**  
(Representative Jeffrey Sánchez)

After a number of assaults on parking enforcement officers, this issue emerged as a problem because the City could not aggressively pursue action against the offenders. This bill seeks an increase in the term of imprisonment to not less than 180 days or more than 5 years in a House of Correction or a fine not less than \$1,000 or more than \$10,000.