



# Boston City Council

## Committee on Government Operations

Maureen Feeney, *Chair*

October 18, 2010

Dear Councillors:

The Committee on Government Operations held a hearing to discuss Docket #1144, Petition for a Special Law re: the Certification and Training of All Levels of Fire Service Personnel. This matter was sponsored by Mayor Menino, referred to this Committee on Wednesday, August 25th, 2010 and heard at a public hearing on Thursday, October 5th, 2010 at which public comment was taken.

Docket #1144 is a home rule petition that would allow the Boston Fire Department to conduct its own certification and training of all levels of fire services personnel. Currently, state law provides that all fire service personnel in the commonwealth may solely be certified and trained by the Massachusetts Fire Training Council and the Massachusetts firefighting academy.

At the hearing, Commissioner Roderick Fraser testified that the Boston Fire Department currently conducts its own training with nationally certified instructors; however there is no formal mechanism for certifying its firefighters. The two agencies specified by statute – the MA Fire Training Council and the MA firefighting academy – do not have the capacity to train and certify a fire fighter force as large as the one present in the City of Boston and are not designed to meet the city's needs.

If this home rule petition is passed by the Council, signed by the Mayor, and later approved by the state, then the Boston Fire Department will be able to train and offer its firefighters with national certification. In addition, the Boston Fire Department will be able to train and certify neighboring cities and towns including Quincy and Revere.

The Committee on Government Operations, to which the following was referred:

**Docket #1144      Petition for a Special Law re: the Certification and Training of All Levels of Fire Service Personnel.**

based on information presented at the hearing and public comment gathered by the Committee and having considered the same, the Chair respectfully recommends that this matter ought to pass.

For the Chair:

Maureen Feeney, *Chair*  
Committee on Government Operations