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## Boston's 2009-2010 Legislative Package II

### *Bills filed to achieve governmental efficiencies*

The Mayor's legislative package of 58 bills for the 2009-2010 session of the General Court contains several bills aimed at achieving governmental efficiencies. These bills range from significant changes such as exempting health insurance plan design from collective bargaining negotiations to technical changes to administrative practices.

In response to cuts in local aid, city and town officials are looking to the Legislature to provide tools that will assist them in managing more effectively and to diversify revenue sources. The revenue bills in the Mayor's legislative package were discussed in the January [Bureau Update](#).

One of the Mayor's legislative proposals combines several past initiatives into one bill intended to provide the following:

- Complete the final transition of Suffolk County services to state responsibility. The Sheriffs' Office is all that remains and state grants cover 96% of the costs now. Boston's 4% in FY09 or \$4.3M is applied to the health insurance account.
- Remove Assistant Principals and Directors of Instruction from collective bargaining as was done for Principals in the 1993 Education Reform Act. These positions are part of the school management team.

- Change existing law so that facilities leased to the School Department for educational purposes from nonprofit owners, such as the Archdiocese of Boston, will not be taxed as they are now.
- Increase the threshold for requiring the Mayor's approval for contracts from \$10,000 to \$25,000. This change would allow Boston's practice to conform to the state's Uniform Procurement Act.

Other efficiency highlights include bills that would:

- Calculate an employees' accidental disability allowance to 72% of the average annual rate of regular compensation during the 12-month period before the retirement date. This bill is attempting to reduce the ability of an employee to base the allowance on a temporary out-of-grade higher salary.
- Remove health plan design from collective bargaining and give city and towns the same administrative control exercised by the state since 1955. Several bills have been submitted on this topic.
- Require annual mandatory drug and alcohol testing for all public safety employees and EMTs. The Mayor is supporting Representative Donelan's bill.