

April 2015

Legislative Agenda 3

A review of selected bills submitted by the City of Boston in four policy areas

Part 3 and final review of selected bills in the Mayor's legislative package for the 2015-2016 session of the General Court highlights six bills in the areas of education, government efficiency, public safety, and transportation.

Education

- S246/H475 – This bill would prohibit charter schools from charging school districts for third party transportation. The district would continue to pay the full cost of transportation, provided that a charter school agreed to the transportation schedule set by the district. If not, the charter school and district would split the costs evenly.
- H3049 - A bill to exempt all public school buses from paying road tolls.
- H405 – This bill would strengthen the turnaround process for state-designated Level 4 underperforming schools. These schools are determined by an analysis of four-year trends in absolute achievement, student growth, and improvement trends as measured by MCAS. This bill makes three changes:
 1. Allows one or more parts of a [JRC decision](#) to be opened for renegotiation without opening up the entire agreement.
 2. Clarifies that JRC decisions would remain in effect if a turnaround plan is renewed at the end of the first three years.
 3. Requires that the transition period out of underperforming status be at

least five years with the JRC agreement remaining in place during that time.

These changes would not require the approval of the collective bargaining unit involved in the original JRC agreement.

Civic Engagement

- A Home Rule Petition to establish additional polling locations in precincts containing more than 3,000 registered voters in Boston. Due to large-scale development in these precincts, wait times and overcrowding of polling places have grown dramatically.

Public Safety

- H2107 - A bill to provide concurrent jurisdiction on all Massport land for local law enforcement agencies, rather than solely on the State Police, excluding Logan Airport. As more commercial, retail and housing projects are built on Massport land in Boston neighborhoods, this jurisdictional issue between Boston and State Police should be addressed to ensure the most effectual and coordinated public safety response.

Transportation

- S1868/H2967 – This bill gives the Registry of Motor Vehicles the authority to reject a car renewal for one unpaid ticket, down from two. Also, a municipality may boot an out-of-state car with three unpaid tickets, down from five.