

AN ACT MODERNIZING THE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS OF THE COMMONWEALTH (*Chapter 25 of the Acts of 2009*)

- Eliminated the Turnpike Authority, streamlined communications, and created a more efficient and cost-effective system under a unifying agency called the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), saving the Commonwealth hundreds of millions over the next 20 years.
- Eliminated the MBTA's "23 and out" rule for future employees effective July 1, 2009, requiring those employees to reach 25 years of service and 55 years of age to collect retirement benefits.
- Required all active and retired MBTA workers to join the state's Group Insurance Commission (GIC) by January 1, 2010.

AN ACT TO IMPROVE THE LAWS RELATING TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE, ETHICS AND LOBBYING (*Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2009*)

- Tightened the rules on gifts given to public officials and imposed a civil violation for gifts up to \$1,000 and a criminal penalty for anything with value greater than \$1,000.
- Expanded the definition of the term "lobbyist" to include anyone paid to advocate for a third party and required strict performance rules for lobbyists including registration with the Secretary of State, annual training and detailed reporting.
- Expanded the disclosure requirements for lobbyists.
- Increased the criminal penalties for violations of lobbying laws from \$5,000 to \$10,000 or imprisonment for up to 5 years in state prison or 2.5 years in county jail.
- Codified the crime of obstruction of justice and made a violation punishable by a \$25,000 fine and up to 10 years in state prison, or both.
- Increased the maximum criminal penalty for giving or receiving a bribe from \$5,000 and 3 years imprisonment to \$100,000 and 10 years imprisonment.
- Expanded the regulatory authority of the state ethics commission, including vesting the commission with full subpoena power.
- Increased the penalty for a civil violation of the conflict of interest law from a maximum of \$2,000 to a maximum of \$10,000
- Expanded the Attorney General's authority to civilly enforce the ethics laws.
- Established a statewide grand jury, thereby allowing the Attorney General to investigate crimes that cross county lines and to convene inquiries into local corruption matters without relying exclusively on local grand jurors.

- Required sub-vendor reporting (e.g. if a candidate hires a consultant and the consultant makes further expenditures, the consultant would have to disclose those expenditures).
- Required disclosure of all donations to inaugural, recount and legal defense funds.
- Required individuals to disclose expenditures for ballot questions.
- Required disclosure of expenditures and funding for electioneering communications.
- Eliminated all “special committee” arrangements between a state political party and an elected official, allowing only individual contributions up to \$5,000 to a political party.
- Prohibited individuals from making committee checks payable to themselves or using campaign funds to pay fines brought about by ethics violations.
- Established a Special Commission to study the creation of a new Office of Public Accountability which would oversee ethics, campaign and political finance, and lobbyist registration.

AN ACT PROVIDING RESPONSIBLE REFORMS IN THE PENSION SYSTEM (*Chapter 21 of the Acts of 2009*)

- Removed the “one day, one year” provision that allowed elected officials to claim an entire year of credible service for working one day in a calendar year.
- Abolished the “king for a day” loophole by requiring the calculation of a disability pension be based on the person’s average annual rate of regular compensation and not on the salary the person was being paid on the day he was injured.
- Extended the vesting requirement of elected officials from 6 years to 10 years and redefined “regular compensation” to specifically exclude certain monetary benefits like housing, lodging, travel, automobile usage or annuities for the purposes of a pension benefit calculation.
- Removed a provision that allows elected officials to claim a “termination allowance” based on the failure to be nominated or re-elected and eliminated a loophole that allows individuals receiving pension benefits to return to work and receive a full salary in addition to pension benefits if the individuals are classified as “consultant” or “independent contractor.”
- Specifically prohibited a person from receiving creditable service for time spent in a position for which they receive an annual salary of less than \$5,000.

AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2010 FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, INSTITUTIONS AND CERTAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMONWEALTH, FOR INTEREST, SINKING FUND AND SERIAL BOND REQUIREMENTS AND FOR CERTAIN PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS (Fiscal Year 2010 General Appropriations Act)

(Chapter 27 of the Acts of 2009)

- Passed on-time and in balance, the FY10 budget reflected the priorities of the people of Massachusetts.
- Facing the worst economic downturn in a generation, the Legislature put forth a budget that drastically cut state spending while protecting the vital programs and services.
- The budget contained transportation funding sources necessary to stop toll increases and provide a much needed fiscal boost to the MBTA.

HOUSE RULES REFORM *(House Order No. 2009)*

- Limited the Speaker's term to a maximum of eight years, instituted mandatory ethics training and allowed the Speaker to unilaterally remove a member from a leadership position or committee if they are criminally indicted.
- Required the Clerk to disable the voting system of any member who has notified the Clerk that he will be absent for a formal session and also required the Clerk to disable the voting system of any member failing to answer the first non-quorum roll call.

AN ACT MOBILIZING ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN THE COMMONWEALTH and AN ACT PROVIDING FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY THROUGH BROADBAND INITIATIVES

(Chapters 30 and 33 of the Acts of 2009)

- Allowed the Commonwealth to capitalize on millions of federal dollars available to Massachusetts through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 while promoting administrative efficiencies and ensuring transparency.

**AN ACT ADOPTING THE FEDERAL SECURE AND FAIR
ENFORCEMENT FOR MORTGAGE LICENSING ACT OF 2008**

(THE SAFE ACT) *(Chapter 44 of the Acts of 2009)*

- Brought Massachusetts into compliance with a federal law to require all mortgage loan originators to be licensed through the Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System and Registry.
- Enacted important consumer safeguards and established a system of compliance, enforcement and continuing education for mortgage loan originators to ensure that the highest ethical standard be met.

**AN ACT REGARDING ACCOUNTABILITY OF PUBLIC UTILITY
COMPANIES** *(House, No. 4126)*

- Required all public utilities companies to file emergency plans with the Department of Public Utilities to avoid future service restoration problems and increased oversight of public utilities in order to promote accountability and quality service.