



Massachusetts  
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# Outlook for New Legislative Session

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## 192nd General Court of the Commonwealth

Two-year session began January 6, 2021 and will wrap up January 3, 2023.

Normal slow start as House and Senate reorganize and Clerks assign bills to legislative committees.

New leadership in the House. Long-time Majority Leader Ronald Mariano (Quincy) now the Speaker and changes to leadership team and committee chairs. Senator Karen Spilka (Ashland) returns as Senate President and fewer changes.

New House Chairs on important Committees for municipal HR legislation.

### Committee on Labor and Workforce Development

Rep. Josh Cutler (Pembroke) NEW

Senator Patricia Jehlen (Somerville) returning

### Committee on Public Service

Rep. Ken Gordon (Bedford) NEW

Senator Michael Brady (Brockton) returning



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Hundreds of new bills and a bunch of new legislative committees

February 19 bill regular filing deadline for the new session

Total including late file petitions as of this morning.

- 6,567 bills filed with docket numbers (bill numbers to follow)
- 4,069 in the House
- 2,498 in the Senate

Quick search of text and titles

- 1,060 with the word “benefits”
- 390 bills with the word “retirement”
- 35 with “Group 2”
- 30 with “Group 4”
- 23 with “111F”



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## New Legislative Committees

NEW and added to 29 Joint Committees from last session

- Joint Committee on Advanced IT, Internet and Cybersecurity
- Joint Committee on COVID-19 and Emergency Preparedness and Management
- Joint Committee on Racial Equity, Civil Rights and Inclusion

New House Committee on Operations, Facilities and Building Security

New Senate Committee on Reimagining Massachusetts Post-Pandemic Resiliency



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## Bills that are drawing early attention

### Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFMLA) Act

House docket 1778 (D. Rogers) remove local option

Senate docket 194 (Brady) remove local option

House docket 3009 (Garballey) add bereavement leave

Senate docket 2427 (Barrett) add bereavement leave

### Emergency Paid Sick Leave

House docket 531 (Donato)

Senate docket 386 (Lewis)

### Retirement Incentives

House docket 1794 (Zlotnik) COVID -19 Essential Employee Retirement Credit Bonus

Senate docket 1111 (Velis) Teacher retirement enhancement



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Special legislative commission in policing reform law (Chapter 253 of 2020)

Special Legislative Commission to Study and Examine the Civil Service Law, Personnel Administration Rules, Hiring Procedures and Bylaws for Municipalities not Subject to the Civil Service Law and State Police Hiring Practices

SECTION 107. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, there shall be established, pursuant to section 2A of chapter 4 of the General Laws, a special legislative commission to study and examine the civil service law, personnel administration rules, hiring procedures and by- laws for municipalities not subject to the civil service law and state police hiring practices. (b) The commission shall consist of 29 members; ... 1 of whom shall be the executive director of the Massachusetts Municipal Association, Inc. or the executive director's designee;



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## Section 107 special legislative commission scope of work

(c) The commission shall study the employment, promotion, performance evaluation and disciplinary procedures for civil service employees, including ...

d) The commission shall study the employment, promotion, performance evaluation and disciplinary procedures of municipalities not subject to the civil service law, including ...

(f) The commission shall evaluate the feasibility of creating a statewide diversity office within the executive office of administration and finance to establish affirmative action plans and guidelines for municipalities, oversee the implementation of these plans and guidelines and monitor noncompliance. The commission shall examine the feasibility and cost of hiring or appointing a diversity officer for every city or town with a municipal police or fire department.



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## Section 107 special legislative commission scope of work

g) RECOMMENDATIONS: The commission shall make recommendations for changes to the civil service law to improve diversity, transparency and representation of the community in recruitment, hiring and training of civil service employees, including, but not limited to, any changes to civil service exams, merit preference status, eligible lists and appointment from eligible lists by hiring authorities. The commission shall make recommendations to improve diversity, transparency and representation of the community in recruitment, hiring and training for municipalities not subject to the civil service law and for the department of state police.

h) FIRST MEETING AND FINAL REPORT: The commission shall hold its first meeting not later than 30 days after the effective date of this act and shall meet at least monthly thereafter. The commission shall submit a report of its study and any recommendations, together with any draft legislation necessary to carry those recommendations into effect, by filing the same with the governor, the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate and the clerks of the house of representatives and senate on or before September 30, 2021.



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Thanks!

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