

Offered by Councillor **STEPHEN J. MURPHY**, *Linchan, Flaherty, Ciommo, Tobin, Turner, Yoon, Yonley, Ross*



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### HOME RULE PETITION

*WHEREAS*, One-half of the property in Boston is tax-exempt and this percentage continues to rise due to the continual expansion of local universities and colleges; and

*WHEREAS*, Higher education expansion equates to an increased financial burden on the City due to lack of taxable property. Schools of higher learning often utilize costly City resources, such as police and fire services, more often than others. This constant institutional expansion means that more City resources will need to be allocated to these new exempt properties, which were formerly taxable property.

*WHEREAS*, Although the City recognizes the benefits that these institutions bring to Boston, the decrease in taxable property due to persistent institutional spread across our City mandates change. *NOW, THEREFORE BE IT*

*ORDERED*, Voted, to petition the General Court to the end that legislation be adopted precisely as follows. The General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the City Council approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court. The City Council is hereby authorized to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition.

#### **PETITION FOR A SPECIAL LAW RE: THE TAX EXEMPT STATUS OF FUTURE ACQUIRED PROPERTIES IN THE CITY OF BOSTON**

##### *Section 1.*

Notwithstanding the third clause of section 5 of chapter 59 of the General Laws or any general or special law to the contrary, any real property acquired on or after June 1, 2008 and owned by or held in trust for a school of higher learning, located in the City of Boston, shall not be exempt from property taxation. Any school of higher learning that acquires said property on or after June 1, 2008 and owns or holds in trust real property located in the City of Boston shall make a payment to the City of Boston in the amount equal to the sum of the property taxes that would have otherwise been payable to the City of Boston. Nothing in this Act shall preclude the City of Boston from entering into a payment in lieu of taxes agreement.

##### *Section 2.*

The provisions of this act shall be effective immediately upon passage

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