

# MBA NEWS

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## **The Massachusetts Bar Association praises Gov. Deval Patrick for crime package that relaxes drug offense minimum mandatory sentences**

The association has supported criminal sentencing reform for more than a decade

BOSTON, Mass. — The Massachusetts Bar Association praises portions of Gov. Deval Patrick's crime bill package, which would make convicted drug offenders eligible for parole after serving two-thirds of their sentence.

"We think this is an excellent step, as far as allowing for flexibility in programming for people that are sentenced for drug crimes," said Lee J. Gartenberg, a member of the MBA's Criminal Justice Section Council. "And we think it's an important step allowing for parole eligibility for facilitating successful reintegration into the community after incarceration."

The Crime Prevention Bill contains other positive reforms supported by the MBA, including major improvements to the state **Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI)** system and the introduction of training and education programs for individuals serving state prison sentences.

The MBA has been a strong advocate for sentencing reform and looks forward to working with the administration and legislature to produce the best legislation possible.

*Incorporated in 1911, the Massachusetts Bar Association is a non-profit organization that serves the legal profession and the public by promoting the administration of justice, legal education, professional excellence and respect for the law. The MBA represents a diverse group of attorneys, judges and legal professionals across the commonwealth.*