

A Victory For Workers' Rights!



Doug Sheff with Governor Deval Patrick, Secretary of Labor, Joanne F. Goldstein, Representative Linda Dorcea Forry, and Executive Director of MassCOSH, Marcy Goldstein-Gelb.



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MBA celebrates Gov. Deval Patrick's signing of the "worker's right to know" bill; legislation will ensure protection of temporary workers

BOSTON, Mass. — The Massachusetts Bar Association today applauds Gov. Deval Patrick for signing into law House Bill 4034, which requires employers to provide temporary workers with written notice of key details of their work assignments and important legal protections available to them.

"This critical legislation does the right thing; ensures that the state's more than 1,000 temporary workers are protected from exploitation and hazardous working conditions. When workers are abused, the results range from inadequate pay to broken bones, amputated limbs, brain injury and even death," said Douglas K. Sheff, MBA treasurer and chair of the association's Workplace Safety Task Force.

"For over a year we have been fighting for these rights for working families. This victory underscores the constant concern on the part of attorneys at the Massachusetts Bar Association for fairness throughout our communities and for workers throughout the commonwealth," Sheff said.

The MBA has been part of working coalition, including MassCOSH and Greater Boston Legal Services, that has advocated forcefully for the passage of the Temp Worker Right to Know bill for the past several years.

The law will end the suffering of temporary workers, who often have limited knowledge of their legal protections and rights available to them. If injured on job sites, temporary workers are sometimes left abandoned at the hospital and may not even know the correct name of their employer. A temporary worker's job location may change before he or she can return after an injury, leaving the burden of medical care and other expenses with the injured worker's family or the commonwealth.

The MBA Workplace Safety Task Force was formed to work toward eliminating injury or death at work. It educates Massachusetts workers, spearheads important projects and supports key legislation. The Task Force includes representatives from the law, medicine, government, academia, business, labor and more. The diversity and caliber of professionals represented on the task force afford it high credibility throughout the commonwealth.

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.