

# MBA NEWS



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## **MASSACHUSETTS BAR ASSOCIATION APPLAUDS GOV. DEVAL PATRICK'S CORI REFORM EXECUTIVE ORDER AND LEGISLATION**

BOSTON, Mass. — The Massachusetts Bar Association supports Gov. Deval Patrick's filing today of Criminal Offender Record Information reform legislation and Executive Orders that will create more job opportunities for criminal offenders and continue to help protect the public.

Patrick's Executive Order and proposed legislation make several changes the MBA has called for in the past. The changes mandate that state agencies consider criminal offender background checks only after candidates have been deemed qualified, require accuracy of the records, increase public education outreach, and institute penalties for abuse.

"The Governor's proposals are a bold first step to ensure fairness and equality for all Massachusetts citizens. The proposals will help remove the stigma of criminal records for those who have successfully rehabilitated themselves, and who are trying to work and support their families," said MBA President David W. White Jr, who testified on the subject before the Joint Committee on the Judiciary at the State House in September.

"We are pleased that the Governor is keeping his promise to improve our CORI system, which has long been in need of significant reforms to ensure fairness and public safety," White added.

The MBA's House of Delegates in the spring of 2006 voted to adopt a report recommending several changes to CORI that are included in the governor's legislation. Among them are assuring the data is accurate, and establishing an educational program for recipients of CORI reports.

*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.*