

Gov. Deval Patrick: Changes to police details nearly done

Boston Herald By Associated Press
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BOSTON - Gov. [Deval Patrick](#) says he's forging ahead with plans to make it easier for cities and towns to hire civilians to replace police officers directing traffic at roadside construction sites.

A transportation bond bill signed by Patrick in April required the administration to draft the new regulations within 90 days. Patrick said the state is close to releasing the new rules.

Police unions oppose the change. They say police officers have the authority to stop traffic, close lanes, and issue citations — all of which makes for safer construction sites.

But supporters of the change say the vast majority of states allow civilians to direct traffic at construction sites.

They say the change could save the state millions.

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