MASSDIVEST
THE LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE: WHAT WE HAVE TO GO THROUGH!

STAGE I:
Public Services Committee (Joint committee for House and Senate)
Chair: Unannounced; probably Sen. Rotundì and Rep. Buglione (Winchester)
1) Hearing;
2) Reporting out;
Last year it was reported out favorably and went to the Senate. If this happens again (which it probably will):

STAGE II:
Senate Ways and Means Committee
Chair: probably Sen. Atkins (Concord)
This committee will make recommendations on the bill, in consultation with the Treasury, on the basis of Commonwealth finances and the probable impact of the bill on the State Pension Fund. Last year this committee recommended a weaker version of the bill to the Senate. If it is recommended in any form again it will go to:

2) Senate Calendar:
President of the Senate: Sen. Bulger (Boston)
Here it will be up for debate, amendments and eventually a vote. At this point last year a strengthening amendment was accepted which returned the bill to its original form. Also, the opposition could delay the vote by offering numerous amendments and motions to table. Finally these were all defeated and the bill went to:

3) Committee on bills in the third reading:
Chair: probably Sen. Lewis (Boston)
This is a formality which can hold the bill up from one minute to the rest of the session. If it is okayed in this committee it will go back to the

4) Senate Calendar for a final vote and will then go to

STAGE III:
1) House Ways and Means Committee
Chair: probably Rep. M. Creedon (Brockton)

2) House Calendar:
Speaker of the House: Rep. T. McGee (Lynn)

3) Committee on Bills in the third reading:
Chair:

4) House Calendar
The process in the House is similar to the Senate. An amendment to the bill in the house (from the Ways and Means Committee or the Floor), if it is accepted will mean it will have to go back to:

STAGE IV: (May be skipped if there's no change to the bill in the House)
1) Senate Calendar to ratify the bill. If the Senate does not agree with the House version it will be sent to a joint committee to find a compromise and will go onto:

STAGE V:
Governor King to sign.
If he vetoes the bill it has to return to the Senate and then the House for a veto override.

PARTICULAR STICKING POINTS IN THIS PROCESS:
1) Last year the Senate Ways and Means Committee used the budget debate as an excuse for not considering our bill till after the summer. This year we should try to get through before the budget comes up.
2) The Treasurer's office was opposed to the bill and lobbied against it. The main reason was that they objected to the interference in their freedom to invest. They argued that the bill wasn't financially sound. On the whole we were able to counter these arguments.

3) Sen. Bulger seems to oppose the bill, though he has not said so outright. He has the power to move any bill slowly or quickly, or just let it die. He didn't show any inclination to get our bill through last year, and it was probably because of public pressure and pressure from Senators who support the bill that got it as far as it went.

4) Sen. Lewis (Ctte on 3rd Readings) openly opposes the bill; as chair of this committee he could hold the bill up indefinitely.

5) There is strong opposition from the small Republican minority, who can and did use all possible tactics to try to destroy the bill: amendments, motions to table, motions to postpone the vote. They can do this until the President calls further such tactics out of order.

6) At this stage the House is an unknown quantity on the whole. The Speaker of the House, Rep. McGee, has not indicated support for the bill. He may be influenced by where the unions stand and pressure from them.

OUR SUPPORT
1) Last year the Senate voted 23 -7 for the bill, in its stronger version. We cannot count on all these votes as strong/active support, since a number of them were probably a response to public pressure. Senators who supported us strongly were:
   Senator Rotundi: this may help get the bill quickly through the Public Services Committee;
   Senator Atkins: he may be able to get the bill quickly through the Ways and Means Committee, unless there is strong opposition from the Treasurer's Office;
   Senators D"Amico (Worcester), Bachrach(Watertown), Owens(boston) helped see the bill through last year and would probably do so again.

2) Apart from Mel King and Tom Gallagher we do not have a clear idea of who is in support of the bill in the House. We should start investigating this as the bill moves through the Senate.

3) Our strongest support and source of pressure on all the Senators last year came from the unions and the community. The large unions have lobbyists working full time on issues they are concerned with. We should work more towards tapping this resource. The same is true for MassFairshare, NAACP, the Urban League, and other large community organizations.