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Wu-7

Mayor Wu's long back and forth battle with legislation and her tax proposal might not end in her favor

The hourglass is almost empty for Mayor Wu as the Massachusetts Senate delays a ruling on her tax proposal for the second time this week.

At this Thursday's Senate meeting, Wu's Bill 5099 appeared in the session's orders of the day after being pushed back from the previous Monday's orders.

Senator Nick Collins called for the motion to delay in light of the recent data release from the Department of Revenue. The *Boston Globe* reported the data predicted residential tax bills would increase by 10.5 percent, not as high as the rates Wu's predicted in their proposal.

"Until last evening, estimates by city officials have been far off the mark," said Collins, "We are still analyzing the data certified by DOR (Department of Revenue) and as more is coming in, we believe that it is fair and prudent to allow the time to digest that data."

By passing the bill, it would shift the tax levy on commercial property owners.

The motion was supported by Senator Peter Durant, who echoed similar concerns if the bill were passed immediately.

“Rushing forward without this due diligence could certainly undermine the public trust and have a long term consequence,” said Durant.

The Senate will revisit the bill at the next meeting scheduled for the following Monday.

Wu’s bill was approved by the city council and the house weeks earlier but now faces uncertainty of moving forward with the senate’s postponement of a decision and faltering support from the business community.

The *Boston Globe* and the *Boston Herald* reported that a joint statement from the four organizations which Wu collaborated on the bill—the Boston Municipal Research Bureau, the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, NAIOP Massachusetts, and the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation—was released on Thursday.

The statement repeated the same desire to delay movement with the bill in order to properly analyze the new data.

Bill 5099 is an act relative to property tax classification in the city of Boston, a revised version of Wu’s proposal from earlier this year. The bill would adjust property tax rates by increasing rates on commercial properties.

Wu has been in a seven-month battle to get this tax proposal passed. The bill to be passed as soon as possible in order to guarantee the change for the next tax cycle.

A decision, or lack of one, on Monday will determine the fate of property owners in Boston for the next few years.