

# History of the Back Bay Commission

Since the Back Bay Commission was established by the State in 1966, the Legislature has passed several amendments to the original enabling legislation. Some of these are related to the way the Commission does business, but others have significantly expanded its responsibilities and jurisdiction.

Below is a summary of these changes.

A copy the current legislation, incorporating the amendments as of 2022, is available by clicking [here](#), courtesy of [BackBayHouses.org](http://BackBayHouses.org).

More information about the Back Bay Architecture District, including the original legislation and amendments can be found [here](#).

## **Summary of enacted amendments:**

### 1974

Change the name of the District from Back Bay Residential District to the Back Bay Architectural District and expand it to the Charlesgate area. Further define the process for appointments and the duties of the Commissioners. Define the different design criteria that apply to the residential and commercial areas of District.

### 1979

Expand the District to include Newbury Street and the North side of Boylston Street.

### 1981

Further refine the purpose of the legislation. Remove the restriction that limited the Commission's jurisdiction to features visible from a public way so that changes to any part of the exterior are included. Further refine the process for issuing a Certificate of Appropriateness.

### 1982

Establish an Environment Department separate from the Boston Redevelopment Authority, with the Back Bay Commission to be part of the new department. Further refinement of the application procedure.

### 1989

Exempt Commissioners from the Conflict of Interest Law in some circumstances.

### 2018

Change in the procedure for appointing Commissioners. If the nominating entity fails to recommend nominees within 90 days, the Mayor may fill the vacancy. Appointments to be subject to confirmation by the City Council.