

# The Legal Beagle

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## Dream Act 2012– What is it?



The Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act has been introduced in various forms, for the last 10 years since 2001. The latest version passed the House in December

2010, but was defeated in the Senate. Last year, on May 11, three Democratic Senators – Harry Reid of Nevada, Richard Durbin of Illinois, and Robert Menendez of New Jersey – reintroduced the DREAM Act in the Senate. This came just a few days after the California State Assembly approved California's version of the Act. The leg-

islators, together with 29 other Senators, including Barbara Boxer of California, advocated for the bill that died in the Senate, arguing it is long overdue and beneficial for the national economy. Under the rigorous provisions of the DREAM Act, qualifying undocumented youths would be eligible for 6-year conditional permanent resident status.

## Dream Act 2012– What are the Conditions?

**FACT: An estimated 65,000 illegal immigrants graduate from U.S. high schools each year.** Under the rigorous provisions of the DREAM Act, qualifying undocumented youths would be eligible for 6-year conditional permanent resident status. This act requires applicants to have come to the US before reaching the age of 16, lived in the United States continuously for at least five years since their arrival, earned a high-school degree, and

demonstrate good moral character. Under the latest version, the cut-off age for applying is 30 years old at the time of the bill's passage. Within the six year period, a qualified student must acquire a degree from an institution of higher education in the United States or complete at least two years, in good standing, in a program for a bachelor's degree or higher degree in the United States, or must have served in the armed services for at least two years and, if discharged,

have received an honorable discharge. If the permanent resident status is terminated for not fulfilling requirements, then, according to the terms of the Act, the person shall return to the immigration status that he or she had immediately prior to receiving conditional permanent resident status under the DREAM Act. A Congressional Budget Office analysis estimated the House version of the DREAM Act would reduce deficits by about \$2.2 billion and increase revenues by \$1.7 billion over the 2011-2020 period.

## Massachusetts Gas Prices Up Another 3 Cents Per Gallon

Gas prices in Massachusetts are continuing their month-long rise. AAA Southern New England reported Monday that a gallon of self-serve, regular is now selling for an average of \$3.40, up three cents from a week ago. The price per gallon has now risen 19 cents in the last four weeks. The Massachusetts price is two

cents above the national average of \$3.38. A year ago, the average

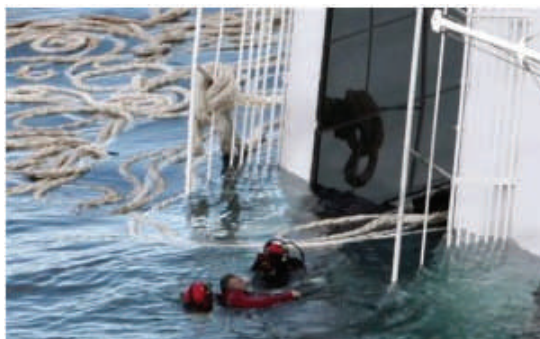
price in Massachusetts was \$3.09. AAA said its survey found prices ranging from a low of \$3.22 per gallon, to a high of \$3.89.

Lowest Regular Gas Prices in the Last 36 hours

Regular Gas	Midgrade	Premium	Diesel Fuel
Price	Station	Area	Thanks
3.37	Prime Energy 121 Main St & Hartford Ave N	Upton	smith3rd 20 hours ago
3.39	Gasco 44 Milford St near Prospect St	Upton	barrwm 6 hours ago
3.39	BP 115 Main St & Hartford Ave N	Upton	smith3rd 20 hours ago

Want the lowest gas prices in your area? Go to: <http://massachusettsgasprices.com> and type in your zip code!

## Captain Abandons Ship with Passengers Still Onboard



An Italian coast guard official vehemently demanded that the captain go back to his crippled cruise ship to oversee its evacuation, but

the captain repeatedly resisted, according to a shocking audiotape made public Tuesday. The Costa Concordia was carrying more than 4,200 people when it hit a reef off the Tuscan island of Giglio after Schettino made an unauthorized deviation from the cruise ship's programmed course, apparently

as a favor to his chief waiter, who hailed from the island. Schettino has insisted that he stayed aboard until the ship was evacuated. How-

ever, a recording of his conversation with Italian Coast Guard Capt. Gregorio De Falco indicates he fled before all passengers were off — and then resisted De Falco's repeated orders to return. The death toll is currently at 11. Prosecutors have accused Capt. Francesco Schettino of manslaughter, causing a shipwreck and abandoning his ship before all passengers were evacuated. The 52-year-old Schettino could face up to 12 years in prison on the abandoning ship charge alone.

## Man Arrested in Worcester Bank Robberies

Lance Riendeau, 31, of Auburn, is charged with two counts of Unarmed Robbery of the Bank of America on Greenwood Street, which happened on Nov. 7, 2011, and the Nov. 21, 2011, hold-up of Bank of America on Chandler Street. In addition to those robberies, Riendeau was also charged with the armed robberies

of the TD Bank located on Main Street which occurred on Dec. 16, 2011, the Millbury Credit Union on West Boylston Street and the TD Bank on Main Street. Worcester Detectives continue to investigate these hold-up cases and are working with other agencies to determine if Riendeau is responsible for other robberies in the region.

Riendeau will be arraigned Wednesday in the Worcester County District Court House.



## Heroin on the Rise in MetroWest

Two recent studies show heroin and painkiller addiction is a significant problem in Eastern Massachusetts, with Marlborough, Framingham and Natick the hardest hit MetroWest communities.

In Natick, residents are rallying to block the opening of an addiction treatment clinic downtown that would prescribe Suboxone. But state data shows Natick residents had between 100 and 200 non-

fatal heroin-related overdoses in 2009, and 199 people entered state-sponsored treatment programs in fiscal 2010.

Those figures don't include any residents in private addiction treatment settings like the practice Dr. Omar Faruk, medical director of Springfield-based Experience Wellness Center, intended to open at 14 West Central St. in Natick last month. According to the

study by the state Bureau of Substance Abuse Services, 1,138 Framingham residents entered state-sponsored addiction treatment programs in fiscal 2010. The state helped treat 197 Franklin residents, and 204 people from Milford. Those numbers don't reflect private treatment options, which are likely significantly higher.

## 2012 Tax Day will be April 17th.

In the United States, Tax Day is a colloquial term for the day on which individual income tax returns are due to the federal government. The term may also refer to the same day for states, even where the tax return due date is a different day.

Since 1955, Tax Day is usually on April 15. When April 15 falls on a weekend, Emancipation Day, or any other holiday, tax returns are instead due on the following business day.

In 2012, Tax Day will be April 17.

In 2011, it was April 18.

Historically, Federal income tax was introduced with the Revenue Act of 1861 to help fund the Civil War, and subsequently repealed, re-adopted, and held unconstitutional.

The early taxes were based on assessments, not voluntary tax returns. Tax payment dates varied by act.



## 2012 Real Estate Forecast

The unemployment rate in MA has fallen to 7.3%. Some industries are beginning to experience growth and we can only hope they continue to hire and create new jobs. One area we continue to struggle with is housing. The actual loss of wealth for so many people in this country is staggering. The CA Association of Realtors has released its real estate forecast for 2012. It is interesting



to see that in 2005 they sold 625K homes and in 2007 that number dropped to 346.9K—a 55% drop in the number of sales. The median price of homes in 2005 was \$522.7K but by 2011 the median prices have dropped to \$291K—a 56% drop in value. All real estate is local, but some parts of CA, Nevada, and FL have experienced over 75% loss in

value. MA and particularly Boston, has fared much better than many of the states. Trulia has come out with its top five places slated for a quicker recovery: Austin, Houston, San Jose, Boston, (and in particular Cambridge, Newton, Framingham, and Worcester) and Rochester, NY. The take away is that highly educated, tech-savvy cities may push through the recovery quicker than other parts of the country.

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8 Year Anniversary—Thank you

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