



Gov aide named Massport board head

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As expected, Gov. **Deval Patrick** seized control of the Massport board of directors yesterday when his top transportation aide was named to head the authority's board.

As first reported in the Herald yesterday, Patrick is moving swiftly to cap spending at quasi-state agencies, and Massport is his target this week.

The governor named two new Massport board members last month, and yesterday the newly constituted board elected Patrick's transportation secretary, Jeffrey Mullan, as its chairman.

He replaces John Quelch, who is leaving to head a business school in China.

The authority oversees the Port of Boston, Logan International Airport, Hanscom Field and Worcester Regional Airport.

The selection of Mullan as chairman of the board gives Patrick a new level of control of the quasi-public agency that operates largely outside of public scrutiny and has been criticized for generous salaries and benefits awarded to its top executives.

The move also could signal that Massport CEO Thomas Kinton could be on his way out, the Herald reported yesterday. Kinton's \$295,000-a-year contract expires in August.

The Patrick administration blocked a \$22,000 salary hike for Kinton the board attempted to pass while the governor was on vacation. Kinton still qualifies for more than \$400,000 in unused sick pay once he leaves Massport.

"I look forward to working with Chairman Mullan and members (Michael) Ang- elini and (Douglas) Husid as we continue to make Massport facilities leaders in safety, security, customer service and environmental initiatives," Kinton said in a statement.

Patrick already has moved to replace MassDevelopment CEO Robert Culver, another head of a quasi-public agency.

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