

HOUSE No. 56

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,
200 NEWBURY STREET, BOSTON 16, November 7, 1951.

*To the Honorable Senate and the House of Representatives, State House,
Boston.*

In accordance with the provisions of section 33 of chapter 30 of the General Laws, a copy of the recommendations for legislation to be contained in the annual report of this Department (Public Document No. 2) is submitted, together with drafts of bills embodying the legislation recommended. The drafts of legislation have been submitted to the Counsel of the Senate as required by law.

GRACE A. BUXTON,
Chairman, Board of Education.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

AN ACT RELATING TO SPECIAL DAY CLASSES FOR DEAF PUPILS.

Since the enactment of the law relating to the establishment of special day classes for deaf pupils (chapter 361 of the Acts of 1923) the number of such classes has been restricted to not more than six towns. As time goes on, it becomes obvious that such restriction is unwise, as it prevents the establishment of the same in many towns wherein there is a vital need for the same. Therefore the present bill seeks to remove the "not more than six towns" restriction in the form of the bill attached hereto and designated as Appendix A, and I respectfully recommend the passage of said bill.

AN ACT RELATING TO BLIND AND VISUALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS, INCLUDING CHILDREN.

For the past twenty-nine years the Commonwealth, in providing for special day classes for deaf pupils, has reimbursed the towns for the reasonable cost of maintenance of such classes, including the necessary traveling expenses of the pupils, and the Department believes that an identical provision for reimbursement should exist in the case of similar classes for the blind. The accompanying bill attached hereto and designated as Appendix B makes this identical provision for reimbursement for the blind, and therefore I respectfully recommend the passage of said bill.

AN ACT RELATING TO THE SALARY OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION.

Section 1B of chapter 16 of the General Laws, as most recently amended by chapter 652 of the Acts of 1947, provides that the Board of Education shall establish the

salary of the Commissioner of Education and contains the provision that it shall not exceed \$11,000. At a recent meeting the Board concluded that this limitation was too low in terms of present-day values and trends as they relate to the salary of the chief educational officer in a State such as Massachusetts, and believes that the maximum should be changed from \$11,000 to \$18,000, as provided in the accompanying bill designated as Appendix C, attached hereto.

SEVEN BILLS AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CONSTRUCT CERTAIN BUILDINGS AT THE STATE TEACHERS COLLEGES LOCATED AT FRAMINGHAM, FITCHBURG, BRIDGEWATER, WORCESTER, NORTH ADAMS, SALEM AND THE MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL OF ART AT BOSTON.

It is common knowledge that the physical plants of our several teachers' colleges are inadequate for the present and anticipated educational offerings. Because of budgetary limitations, we have been unable during the past few years to embark upon much needed projects at the teachers' colleges which are essential to our present and future educational programs. Therefore the Board of Education, after careful study, survey and consideration, is desirous of making a start on a long-range program of plant improvement, and the accompanying bills, designated as appendices D, E, F, G, H, I and J, are designed to permit the construction stated therein at the state teachers' colleges at Framingham, Fitchburg, Bridgewater, Worcester, North Adams, Salem and the Massachusetts School of Art at Boston, and I respectfully recommend their enactments.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE APPOINTMENT OF TWO ADDITIONAL DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS OF EDUCATION.

The appointment of a deputy commissioner of education, who is a part of the administrative staff of the Department of Education, and the assignment of his duties, should hereafter be made by the Board of Education,

which has been established by chapter 652 of the Acts of 1947.

The outline of duties of the single deputy commissioner of education, now employed, has increased materially since 1946, when his duties included those of the determination of payments from the Massachusetts School Fund, so called, and other state aid for public schools under the provisions of chapters seventy and seventy-one, of educational research, statistics and reports, and of legislation concerning education by the expansion of the general state aid program for these schools and the state aid for the transportation of school children. His increased responsibilities allow for no additional administrative assignments of duties. The Board of Education, therefore, deems it necessary to establish two additional positions of deputy commissioner of education to cover the increased duties and responsibilities. The filling of these positions will not involve the employment of additional personnel, as the present Director of Elementary and Secondary Education and State Teachers Colleges, and the Director of the Division of Vocational Education, will serve in this capacity with the assignment of the increasing number of administrative duties for the Department, which are not now being fully covered by the present staff. Therefore I recommend the passage of the accompanying bill designated as Appendix K.