

HOUSE No. 11

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,
200 NEWBURY STREET, BOSTON 16, November 3, 1954.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives.

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.

WILLIAM E. PARK,
Chairman, Board of Education.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

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

General Laws, chapter 15, section 1B, as most recently amended by chapter 585 of the acts of 1952, 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 \$15,500, as provided in the accompanying bill designated as "Appendix A" attached hereto.

2. AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

In 1947, by reason of the enactment of chapter 652 of that year, a Board of Education was established to have supervision and control of the Department of Education. Said enactment contained fifteen sections, all of which were designed to vest control of the Department of Education in the Board in place of the Commissioner of Education who had exercised such control during the immediately preceding approximately thirty years. One of these sections, viz., section 4 of chapter 15 of the General Laws, specified the establishment of the several divisions to be established in the Department of Education. Said section was amended by chapter 585 of the acts of 1952, and later by chapter 514 of the acts of 1954, at which time the third sentence read as follows:—

In the department there shall be a division of library extension, a division of immigration and Americanization, a division of the blind, a division of elementary and secondary education, a division of teachers colleges, a division of university extension, a division of research and sta-

tistics, a division of vocational education, a division of vocational rehabilitation, and a division of special education,

thus spelling out ten divisions in all.

The proposed new section 4 is identical with the above, with the simple addition at the end of said third sentence the words: — “and a division of teacher certification and placement.” The establishment of said division becomes a vital necessity since the General Court enacted the recent teacher certification law which will be ultimately applicable to the 25,000 public school teachers and the placement of current teacher college graduates and other college graduates annually amounting to many thousands of persons. Therefore the proposed amendment attached hereto as “Appendix B” establishes such a division and is the recommendation of the Board of Education. See “Appendix B” attached.

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

In the Department of Education there is at present, as part of the administrative staff, one Deputy Commissioner of Education, which position was established by chapter 531 of the Acts of 1946.

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. Therefore we recommend the passage of the accompanying bill designated as "Appendix C."

4. RESOLVE PROVIDING FOR AN INVESTIGATION AND STUDY
BY A SPECIAL COMMISSION RELATING TO STATE AID
FOR EDUCATION.

The existing transportation law was abandoned and supplanted by a much more liberal transportation reimbursement law, possibly most graphically expressed in simple figures; that is, previous to the 1947 amendment, 80 small towns were reimbursed approximately \$200,000 on account of transportation of school pupils. The new law now provides approximately \$2,800,000 to 250 towns of the Commonwealth. Similarly, in 1948, the so-called General School Fund distributed approximately \$5,000,000, whereas after the enactment of the 1948 act, said sum was increased to approximately \$20,000,000. Because of the complexity of the formulas and of the constant attempts to revise, with the grave danger of distortion, it is believed that the time is now ripe for a study and review of the complete subject matter with a view to curative legislation which will reflect present and future needs. As this matter involves the distribution of some \$24,000,000 of state moneys to the various municipalities, the Board of Education deems such an immediate study a necessity. See "Appendix D."