
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, March 23, 1965.
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

This administration is totally dedicated to the achievement of equal opportunity for each and every one of our citizens, regardless of race, color or national origin. To assist our effort in this regard, I propose that the Legislature make permanent the position of Secretary for Intergroup Relations within the Governor's Office.

This official would be a full-time, regular member of the Governor's staff. His principal duty would be to coordinate the activities of the Governor's Advisory Committee on Civil Rights, as well as those of an Inter-departmental Committee of Fair Practices in Government which I plan to establish shortly by executive order. In addition, he would provide a direct link with those groups and individuals outside of the government who are concerned with protecting and promoting human rights.

As you know, the Governor's Advisory Committee on Civil Rights is a group composed of leaders in the fields of business, law, education, labor, religion and human rights. It consults with and advises the Governor as to the need for new legislation as well as other opportunities to end discrimination and enhance dignity.

The proposed Interdepartmental Committee on Fair Practices in Government would be charged with ensuring that all programs of the Commonwealth are free of discrimination, and further, that they are designed so that both employment and advancement are judged solely on the basis of merit and ability.

I am submitting for your consideration a bill which will assist us in the implementation of this program.

I respectfully urge that you grant it your approval.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN A. VOLPE,
Governor,
Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-Five.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE OF SECRETARY FOR INTERGROUP RELATIONS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

- 1 Chapter 6 of the General Laws is hereby amended by in-
- 2 serting therein, after section five, the following new section: —
- 3 *Section 5A.* The Governor shall appoint a secretary for
- 4 intergroup relations, who shall hold office during the pleasure
- 5 of the Governor, and who shall receive a salary not exceeding
- 6 the sum annually appropriated therefor by the general court.