

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, April 12, 1943.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

I am returning herewith without my approval AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BOSTON TO PAY A SUM OF MONEY TO THE FATHER OF KENNETH BALDASSARI, being House Bill # 368.

This bill has the deep sympathy of all of us. Kenneth Baldassari, about two years of age, was playing in the school grounds of the City of Boston. Apparently he was close to a building when there was a snow-slide from the roof which injured him permanently, it was claimed.

This snow-slide did not appear to be the fault of any city official, nor a defect in the building. There is no responsibility on the part of the City. The boy was not attending school, nor was he under school supervision.

If this bill becomes law, and the City of Boston is required to pay this sum of money "for the purpose of discharging a moral obligation", we must expect similar claims to be presented in connection with nearly every accident which occurs on streets or other public property within the limits of the City. All the arguments against special legislation in behalf of one citizen at the expense of the many, clearly apply to this bill.

LEVERETT SALTONSTALL,
Governor of the Commonwealth.

