

HOUSE No. 2432

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, June 17, 1948.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

I am returning herewith without my approval House Bill 1742, Appendix I, entitled, "AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIES."

This bill would set up in the Department of Labor and Industries under the Board of Conciliation and Arbitration a Director of Conciliation to be appointed by the Governor at a salary of \$6,000 a year; an unpaid Advisory Board of eight members, four from labor, four from management, to be appointed by the Governor and to serve at the will of the Governor; and a panel of stand-by arbitrators selected by the Advisory Board and paid on a per diem basis, if and when called.

This bill departs fundamentally from the purpose of eliminating government from the functions of conciliation and arbitration. Instead it adds more government to the picture. It ignores the proposition that progress in the conduct of industrial disputes must come through placing more responsibility upon the groups most vitally affected, management and labor, and less upon government intervention.

Our present Board of Conciliation and Arbitration has made an enviable record. This bill would change its structure materially, experiment with its functions, and increase the cost of its services. I cannot see the virtue of

these changes without more foreseeable benefits than are indicated from the present bill. I believe further study of plans to shift more of the burden from government to the parties themselves would be advisable before crystallizing new forms on the present framework.

For these reasons I return this bill without my approval.

Respectfully yours,

ROBERT F. BRADFORD,

Governor of Massachusetts.