

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, June 16, 1948.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

I am returning without my approval Senate 541 entitled: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF ANNUITIES TO CERTAIN DISABLED WAR VETERANS."

This Bill authorizes the payment of a life annuity of \$500 a year to Massachusetts veterans of any war who, through wounds, are permanently paralyzed in both legs and the lower part of the body.

It is difficult not to approve any measure which is designed for the comfort or welfare of any such group as these men who have suffered so much for their country. Nevertheless, the fact must be faced that this legislation singles out only one class of permanently disabled veterans and makes no provision for others who suffer an equal disability from other kinds of wounds; for example, those who have incurred complete paralysis of one side of the body, those who have lost both arms and legs, or those with permanent brain or nerve impairment. Unless and until we are prepared to provide equally for the assistance of all totally disabled veterans, I cannot regard it as equitable to make an exception for one particular group.

For this reason I return this Bill without my approval.

Respectfully yours,

ROBERT F. BRADFORD,

Governor of Massachusetts

