

SENATE No. 614

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 Senate Bill 475 entitled, "AN ACT RELATIVE TO COMPENSATION FOR OVERTIME SERVICE BY POLICE OFFICERS OF THE CITY OF BOSTON."

This bill provides that any police officer of the city of Boston who is required to perform any service beyond his regular established hours of service shall be paid for such additional hours at the rate of his regular compensation. This represents a marked departure from the traditions of the police. In view of their high duty to protect the lives and property of the citizens at all times, it has heretofore been assumed that their duties included whatever might be required to afford such protection without limitation to regular hours of employment. The underworld knows no regular hours.

If these provisions should be accepted by the city, they would, of course, entail considerable administrative reorganization of the police department and require substantially increased expenditures. By Chapter 261 of the current session, you have directed the Finance Commission of the City of Boston to conduct an administrative survey of all the departments of the city for the purpose of improving their organization and efficiency. That survey is now in progress and the police department is one of the important departments to be examined. In

view of this situation, it is my opinion that any change such as this bill proposes should await the results and the report of the Finance Commission's investigation.

I therefore return the bill without my approval.

Respectfully yours,

ROBERT F. BRADFORD,
Governor of Massachusetts.