

# SENATE . . . . No. 665

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, April 4, 1955.

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:*

I am returning herewith without my approval Senate Bill No. 627, entitled "An Act relative to the Membership of the Public Utilities Commission."

This bill is not clear in its intent. If it were the intent of the Legislature that a Chief Executive should merely give consideration to having as one of the members of the Public Utilities Commission a person versed in labor relations and consumer problems, then there is no possible way in which the Legislature could be assured that a Chief Executive had given such consideration.

If, on the other hand, it is the intent of the Legislature that the Chief Executive should, in fact, appoint to the Public Utilities Commission a person so qualified then I would disapprove of the Act for the reasons best stated in the attached communication which I have received from the Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission.

Very truly yours,

CHRISTIAN A. HERTER,  
*Governor of the Commonwealth.*

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES,  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 33, March 31, 1955.

His Excellency, CHRISTIAN A. HERTER, *Governor of the Commonwealth.*

SIR: — We are returning herewith Senate Bill No. 627, entitled "An Act relative to the Membership of the Public Utilities Commission." This Bill directs the Governor to give consideration to appointment of a person experienced in labor relations and consumer problems when making appointments to the membership of the Commission of this Department.

While the proposed legislation does not make it mandatory upon the Governor to appoint any particular type of person to the membership of the Commission, we believe that the Bill is fundamentally undesirable. The Commission is or should be appointed to represent the entire public of the Commonwealth. Its duties do not include any resolution of questions involving labor relations and such a background would seem to have no relevance to the appointment of members of the Commission. The entire work of the Department may be considered to refer to "consumer problems", as referred to in the attached Bill. However, the proposed legislation in this respect seems to be completely unnecessary, since there is, so far as we are aware, no specific course of training directed toward consumer problems as such. We assume that any person who is qualified to understand and protect the public interest in utility operations would have an adequate background in this respect. We seriously question the soundness of the purpose of this Bill, which has been repeatedly presented to the Legislature in prior years and which in its many forms has been designed to compel appointment of a representative of organized labor to the Commission. We do not believe appointments made to a body charged with the duty of representing the general public should be made up of representatives of any one segment.

In so far as it is proper for us to advise Your Excellency in regard to the attached legislation, we cannot indicate our approval.

Respectfully,

For the Department,

DAVID M. BRACKMAN,  
*Chairman*

