

HOUSE No. 2836

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, June 22, 1953.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

Conforming with the state constitution I am recommending certain items of appropriation, supplementing those already provided for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1953. I am making specific reference to certain recent legislative enactments which require sizable appropriations and recommending that you give consideration to the amounts required for the cost of making effective others which I have not included, and those which may be subsequently enacted under the heading of new laws or extensions of old ones, already authorized. I recommend:

I. NEW LAWS.

1. *Civil Defense.* — The amount of \$203,000 is only two thirds of what I included in my budget message, but for administration alone seems to be adequate provision and the director's request for certain special items has been withdrawn.

2. *Recodification.* — To cover the expense of the extension of the special commission's activities until February 3, 1954, I recommend \$94,000 which is consistent with experience to this time.

3. *Rent Control.* — It has been very difficult to estimate how much should be made available to the Rent Co-ordinator to enable him to comply with Chapter 434, because there are so many indeterminate matters, such as the extent to which its provisions will be accepted by

the cities and towns, and in consequence, how much it will cost the state to reimburse them for 40% of local administrative expense. On the basis of the experience of existing federal offices I am recommending \$430,600.

4. *Marketing.* — The authority for this activity does not provide for any compensation for the commissioners, but I suggest \$10,000 for expenses of making the investigation and recommendations as to marketing facilities.

5. *Department of Commerce.* — The new department is already launched and is using for the remainder of 1953 unexpended balances in the accounts of the State Planning Board, and the Massachusetts Development and Industrial Commission. The amount which I am recommending will, when added to sums already appropriated to those agencies for 1954, give the department a total of \$500,000.

6. *Care of Children.* — Having been informed of the intention of the City of Boston to discontinue the office in the Institutions Department which is responsible for the care and custody of children, it becomes the duty of the state Department of Public Welfare, under the law, to assume the responsibility as in other cities and towns. The most accurate and recent figures show 1,133 children to be cared for at an estimated annual cost of about \$780,000. I recommend that you appropriate \$440,000 which will provide for this added service from January 1, 1954. It is expected that revenue equal to almost half this amount will accrue to the state from parents and other sources and from the City of Boston.

7. *Reserve for Increased Postal Rates.* — We are verifying the probability of an increase in postal rates of approximately one-third, as requested by the Post Office Department for October 1st, next. Such an increase would cost the state departments about \$100,000. I recommend that subject to the result of the check we are now making you set up a reserve for allocation by the Commission on Administration and Finance for this purpose.

8. *Bonus Commission*. — Organization and planning for the payment of the Korean Bonus have not yet gone far enough to allow firm estimates of administrative costs. The bonus payments will be made without appropriation. I am recommending that you appropriate for the service of the commission from the Veterans' Services Fund, \$205,000, a figure based on previous bonus experience.

9. *Museum of Science*. — You have authorized the Metropolitan District Commission to contract with the Society for Natural History for the use by school children of the Museum of Science. I recommend \$50,000 for this purpose to be assessed to the Metropolitan Parks District.

II. SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS.

I have received a few requests for appropriations from agencies which believe that additional amounts should be made available so that they may carry out the duties imposed on them by law. Since not all departments have had an opportunity to learn the details of amounts included for them in Chapter 489, there may be on the way further requests about which we do not know. Your attention is directed to any such matters which you deem worthy of further consideration. I understand too, that there are some possible revisions of completion dates of new facilities which may require additions to amounts now available so that they may be opened as soon as possible, and I know of a few instances in which your study of requests for construction has brought out items which belong here rather than in a capital outlay program. And finally, I am concerned by the knowledge that certain federal grants on which we had counted in the public health field, are to be reduced, and we are faced with a decision as to making further appropriations or reducing services.

I am fully in accord with your desire to consider the amounts in the appropriation bill as final, but realizing that there may be exceptional cases where failure to

act would produce hardship, I have asked the Budget Commissioner to report to your committees official requests and my recommendation in categories such as I have mentioned; and with confidence that you will deal properly with them, I am leaving specific action to your judgment.

Among the specific recommendations, I have included some for agencies such as Rent Control and Civil Defense which as yet have no authorization to incur obligations for the new fiscal year. I suggest that to cover such cases and to clear the way for prorogation you appropriate without delay for as many items as you have fully before you, so that there will remain for a final appropriation bill, only those services which are affected by the last legislative enactments.

CHRISTIAN A. HERTER,
Governor of the Commonwealth.

ITEMS RECOMMENDED.

0110-17	Repairs to walls and murals, House of Representatives	\$1,000 00
0406-01	Civil Defense, Administration	203,000 00
0407-01	Commission on Recodification	80,000 00
0407-02	Printing of Recodification Report	14,000 00
0471-01	Rent Control Co-ordinator	430,600 00
0472-01	Commission on Marketing	10,000 00
1551-01	Department of Commerce	240,678 00
1901-03	Public Welfare, Administration	50,000 00
1906-04	Care of Children	390,000 00
2820-35	Reserve for increased postal rates	100,000 00
	Total General Fund	\$1,519,278 00
3501-01	Bonus Commission	205,000 00
	Total Veterans' Services Fund	\$205,000 00
8601-27	Use of Museum of Science	50,000 00
	Total, Metropolitan District Commission Fund	\$50,000 00
	Total, all Funds	\$1,774,278 00