

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, May 26, 1961.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

I am returning herewith without my approval House bill No. 3141 entitled "An Act Increasing the Salaries of Clerks, Assistant Clerks and Other Clerks of the District Court".

House, No. 3141 affects the salaries of clerks, assistant clerks, and other clerks of the district courts in all counties except Suffolk but including the clerk in the Roxbury and the clerk in the West Roxbury Municipal Courts and provides a new salary schedule for clerks under which schedule the maximum for each court class is 10% higher than the present maximum. The increase in minimum and maximum is as follows:

CLASS	MINIMUM INCREASE	MAXIMUM INCREASE
I	\$206.	\$430.
II	260.	500.
III	280.	600.
IV	320.	800.
V	400.	1,000.

The statute now in force does not provide a schedule of salaries for assistant clerks. Chapter 609 of the Acts of 1959 of the General Laws provides that the first assistant clerk shall receive 75% and all other assistant clerks shall receive 70% of the salary rates in the court classes for the clerks of the district courts. This present bill will indicate an increase in their salaries of approximately the same 10% than the present wage scale in the class of district court in which they serve.

Since the passage of chapter 609 of the Acts of 1959 wherein the class of court was established, three courts have been, by act of the General Court, raised to the higher court classes and the West Roxbury Court clerk was added to court class V.

Not only does the bill affect a raise in the salary of the clerks in Suffolk County but for the second time there is a statutory interference with the compensation plan promulgated by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Boston for the officers and employees of Suffolk County. It should be pointed out that to grant the 31 employees in Suffolk County, who will benefit by this increase, discrimination against other county employees generally, is not a favorable situation.

I would further like to point out that these salaries are all paid by the county and their budget with no provision for such increases was signed by me on May 18, 1961 so that the proposed increases may not be paid in 1961 and will not be paid until some provision therefor would be made by the General Court in 1962. The Suffolk County court expenses are paid by the City of Boston and no provision has been made in its budget for payment in the current fiscal year.

It might be well to point out that in the courts under class V the maximum pay of the clerk will be increased \$1000.00 annually while in the case of clerks in class I, it amounts to \$430.00.

In view of the fact that the present scale went into effect July 1, 1960, with sizeable increases in salary together with the facts I have stated above, I do not believe such increases to be in the public interest and I cannot approve the measure.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN A. VOLPE,  
*Governor of the Commonwealth.*