

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

STATE HOUSE • BOSTON 02133

MICHAEL S. DUKAKIS
GOVERNOR

August 3, 1990

To The Honorable House of Representatives:

Pursuant to Article LVI, as amended by Article XC, Section 3, of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I am returning to you for amendment House No. 5907, entitled "An Act Directing The State Secretary To Place A Certain Question On The Biennial State Election Ballot In The City Of Fitchburg."

The bill, a general home rule petition previously approved by the Fitchburg City Council, requests a binding question on the ballot. As drafted, however, the bill does not accomplish this purpose because it contains no operative language that would become law if the question in fact passes once it is before the voters.

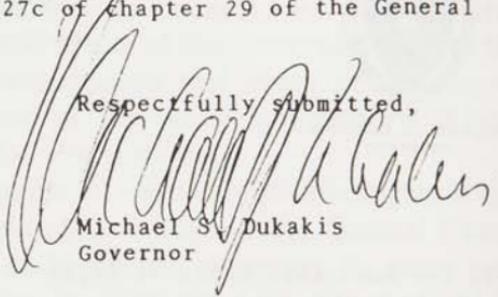
In order for the bill to achieve its stated purposes, I recommend that the bill be amended to incorporate the following language:

Section 1. Not later than September nineteen hundred and ninety-one, the city of Fitchburg shall establish, and shall thereafter maintain, a municipal ambulance, which shall be housed in the fire department and under the jurisdiction and supervision of the fire chief or his designee. Notwithstanding the acceptance otherwise required by section thirty-nine K of chapter forty of the General Laws, the city of Fitchburg may establish an enterprise fund pursuant to said section thirty-nine K for this purpose.

Section 2. The state secretary shall cause to be placed on the official ballot to be used at the biennial state election in the year nineteen hundred and ninety in the city of Fitchburg the following question:- "Shall the city of Fitchburg maintain a municipal ambulance, that shall be housed in the fire department and under the jurisdiction and

supervision of the fire chief or his designee, this service to be established not later than September nineteen hundred and ninety-one as an enterprise fund?" If a majority of votes in answer to this question is in the affirmative, then this act shall thereupon take effect, but not otherwise. If a majority of such votes is in the affirmative, the City of Fitchburg shall be considered to have accepted this act for the purpose of subsection (a) of section 27c of chapter 29 of the General Laws.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael S. Dukakis
Governor