

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE HOUSE • BOSTON 02133

EDWARD J. KING
GOVERNOR

April 5, 1982

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

On February 26, 1982, I submitted to your Honorable Bodies legislation entitled "An Act Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year Ending June the Thirtieth, Nineteen Hundred and Eighty-Two to provide for Supplementing Certain Existing Appropriations and for Certain New Activities and Projects". That Special Message, House No. 5790, which provides the funds necessary to meet the Commonwealth's obligations under the Brewster, Mental Retardation and Bridgewater Consent Decrees, is now before the House Committee on Ways and Means.

Today I call particular attention to the unique situation presently at hand in our state schools for the mentally retarded. For over nine months this administration has endeavored to gain your approval of these necessary supplemental appropriations. At the same time, the Commonwealth has attempted to gain relief from these consent decrees and the judicial approval which would allow these state schools to operate within their current appropriation levels.

In the absence of this judicial relief, the state schools have been obligated to spend at a rate higher than their present appropriations. As a consequence the present state school personnel accounts are proceeding to run out of funds. The first such account to be depleted, if no action is taken, will be the Belchertown State School, on or about April 17th. The state schools are on the brink of crisis. To avert this situation and avoid the necessary alternatives: payless paydays for state school employees and/or the emergency use of the National Guard, I am drawing your attention to the state school personnel accounts which are critically deficient.

In fiscal 1982, the 5016-0100 (02) account needs to be supplemented with \$4,112,178 and the state school maintenance accounts need to be supplemented at the following levels in order to avoid an imminent personnel crisis:

5183-0100 (01)	632,204
(02)	100,954
5283-0100 (01)	812,601
(02)	346,659
5483-0100 (01)	817,492
(02)	31,587
5583-0100 (01)	474,654
(02)	- 0 -
5883-0100 (01)	423,381
(02)	27,670
5898-0100 (01)	<u>15,165</u>
SUBTOTAL	3,682,367

The total emergency supplemental relief required to alleviate this crisis situation in the state schools is \$7,794,545.

I respectfully urge your prompt and favorable action on the supplemental appropriation request before you.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward J. King
EDWARD J. KING
GOVERNOR