

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



EDWARD J. KING
GOVERNOR

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE HOUSE • BOSTON 02133

May 26, 1982

TO THE HONORABLE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

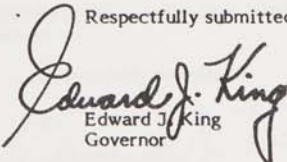
In accordance with the provisions of Article LVI of the Amendments to the Constitution, I am returning herewith, House Bill No. 5698 entitled "AN ACT REGULATING THE SEALING OF RECORDS AFTER A PARDON".

This legislation provides for the sealing of records for offenses committed by an individual upon the approval of a petition for pardon. It provides that such records shall not disqualify a person in an examination, appointment or application nor shall they be admissible in evidence in a court proceeding or hearing before a board. I agree with these provisions of the Bill.

I cannot however, agree that a person who has received a pardon, may on a application or interview for employment, answer in the negative if asked whether he has been convicted of an offense. This practice would constitute deceit and would condone the telling of a lie. For this reason I recommend that House Bill No. 5698 be amended as follows:-

The fourth paragraph of section 152 of chapter 127 of the General Laws, as appearing in said House Bill 5698, is hereby amended by striking out the third sentence thereof.

Respectfully submitted,


Edward J. King
Governor

