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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.**


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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, BOSTON, May 29, 1924.

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:*

I am returning herewith, without my approval, House Bill 1377, entitled "An Act Increasing the Salaries of the Registers of Deeds and Assistant Recorders of the Land Court for the Northern, Southern and Fall River Districts of Bristol County."

This measure would establish further exceptions to the uniform scale of salaries for Registers of Deeds which was established in 1919. It provides that Registers of Deeds for the three districts in Bristol County shall receive in addition to their base pay fifteen per cent of the average annual gross income as provided by General Laws, chapter 37, section 34, instead of ten per cent which is allowed at present.

The only exceptions to the original standardization were for the Registers for Dukes and Nantucket Counties and for the Southern District of Berkshire County, who were given special consideration in view of the small population of the registration district and because of the small receipts in recording fees. In 1921, a further exception was made in favor of the Register of Deeds for the District of Northern Middlesex because of the small receipts in that district. If further exceptions are to be made for the three Registers as provided for by this bill, there seems to be no good reason why all Registers should not receive similar increase.

The present salaries received by the Registers of Deeds affected by the bill are as follows:

Register of Deeds, Southern District, Bristol County . . .	\$3,515 28
Register of Deeds, Northern District, Bristol County . . .	2,864 75
Register of Deeds, Fall River District, Bristol County . . .	3,104 56

There are seven other Registers of Deeds in the Commonwealth, not including those for Dukes, Nantucket and the Southern District of Berkshire, who receive \$3,000 or less.

The bill is special legislation and if passed, it will be referred to as a convincing argument for setting aside the standardization rates which have been established for the Registers of Deeds, Registers of Probate, Sheriffs and other County positions. The present standardization was established after long investigation and was adopted so that all County officials might be treated fairly and that the General Court might be relieved of the consideration of just such special bills as the one in question.

CHANNING H. COX.



