

SENATE No. 371.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, BOSTON, May 23, 1905.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives :

I return herewith, with my objections in writing, an act entitled " An Act to authorize the city of New Bedford to incur certain indebtedness beyond the limit fixed by law, and to issue bonds, notes, or scrip therefor."

This is a special act, and is contrary to the general law of the Commonwealth, which wisely limits the indebtedness of cities. This general law has long been upon our statute books, and was designed to prevent cities from accumulating indebtedness burdensome to the taxpayers. Exceptions from the provisions of this general law should be permitted only when some urgent public necessity demands it.

The bill returned herewith asks permission to incur indebtedness to the extent of three hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars beyond the limit fixed by law.

In my opinion if the debt limit of cities and towns is to be extended, it should be by a general law, rather than by special legislation.

This bill is objectionable because it is special legislation, and is in direct opposition to the long established general law of the Commonwealth. Therefore I return the bill without my signature.

WILLIAM L. DOUGLAS.

