
Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, BOSTON, May 10, 1909.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives.

I return herewith without my approval "An Act to Establish the Salaries of the present Deputies of the Secretary of the Commonwealth."

As I understand the matter, the present deputies of the Secretary of the Commonwealth referred to in this bill are two in number. The matter of an increase in their salaries was considered by the Legislature last year and one of them, the so-called second deputy, received an increase in salary from \$2200 to \$2500 a year. It was not deemed wise at that time to increase the pay of the other deputy, whose salary was \$2500.

It seems to me that the increases in salary here called for are not necessary or wise at the present time, nor do I think the work as a whole which is done by these deputies calls for an expenditure of more than \$5000, the amount which is at present paid.

Beyond this, one of the gentlemen serving as deputy has been a long time in the service of the Commonwealth and has rendered faithful service, but he is, if incapacitated, eligible for retirement on half his salary, or \$1250 a year. Were this bill to be passed, he would immediately become eligible for retirement, when incapacitated, at \$1500 a year. I do not consider this in the slightest degree as a criticism or reflection on anyone, but I do think that it is an important matter for the Commonwealth to consider in the passage of a salary bill, because where a public servant is eligible to retirement on half pay, he should certainly be satisfied with a much less total salary when at work than should a person who, when the time for retirement comes, receives no pay whatever.

For the reasons above given I return this bill without my approval.

EBEN S. DRAPER.

