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*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON  
JUNE 5, 1962.

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:*

In accordance with the provisions of Article LVI of the Amendments of the Constitution, I am returning herewith Senate 95 entitled, "An Act Providing For A Higher Minimum Salary For Public School Teachers".

I recommend the bill be amended in the manner and for the reasons indicated below:

As early as 1647 a law of the Colony required that schools be provided. In 1780 the framers of our Constitution expressed their concern over the establishment of schools and declared, as a mandate through the years, that it shall be the duty of legislatures, in all future periods of this Commonwealth, to cherish the interest of literature and the sciences, especially public schools and grammar schools in the towns. Thus, it was clearly established, from the very beginning, that maintenance of public schools is a matter not only of local but of state concern. In none of the many and varied other specific municipal activities is the Constitution so assertive.

Therefore, when the General Court deals with matters affecting public schools, it is acting on a state function which the Commonwealth has traditionally shared with municipal authorities.

Furthermore, minimum salary legislation for teachers has been made mandatory since it was first adopted in 1918.

In view of the above, the basic purpose of S. 95 merits support. I feel, however, that in its present form the bill would impose an intolerable burden on the cities and towns by requiring that the new minimum salary provisions shall become effective on January 1, 1963. In order to ameliorate the impact of this bill on the financial structure of our cities and towns, the effective date should be changed from January 1, 1963, to September 1, 1963.

I, therefore, recommend that Section 2 of the bill, S. 95, be amended by striking out the words "January first" and substituting in lieu thereof the following: "September first".

If this change is affected, the appropriate officials of our cities and towns will be given time to make such fiscal adjustments as may be necessary to adapt their budgets to the new minimum salary scales.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN A. VOLPE,

*Governor*

*Commonwealth of Massachusetts*