

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133, March 20, 1970.

To the General Court of Massachusetts:

In accordance with the provisions of Article LVI of the Amendments of the Constitution, I am returning, herewith, House Bill No. 3067 entitled "An Act further regulating the issuance of alcoholic beverage licenses within five hundred feet of a church or school."

Originally, Section 16C of chapter 138 absolutely prohibited issuance of licenses for the sale of alcoholic beverages within a radius of 500 feet of a church or school. In 1968, legislation was passed which permitted such licenses if the governing body of the church or school assented in writing.

H. 3067, instead of requiring the license applicant to get the assent of the school or church, would permit the establishment of a licensed premise unless the governing body of the school or church filed written objection.

If the General Court desires to shift the burden to the church or school to object, rather than to prevent the issuance of the license if the church or school does not assent, I have no objection. However, I believe that it is only fair that the church or school, at the time they are given notice of the pending application, also be informed of the fact that they must make this written objection in order to prevent the issuance of the license. The amendment I propose would simply make the parties concerned aware of their rights and responsibilities under the changes incorporated in this legislation.

I, therefore, recommend the bill be amended as follows:—

By adding at the end, thereof, the following new section:

"SECTION 2. Section 15A of chapter 138 is hereby amended in the second paragraph by inserting after the first sentence the following sentence:—The notice sent to such church or school shall indicate the necessity of a written objection to prevent the issuance or transfer of such license under the provisions of section sixteen C."

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCIS W. SARGENT,
Acting Governor of the Commonwealth.

The Commission on Government

Executive Committee

First Report, 1913

In the House of Representatives

The Commission on Government, created by the House of Representatives on July 1, 1912, has the honor to submit to the House its first report, containing a statement of its organization, a list of its members, and a summary of its work during the past year.

The Commission was organized on July 1, 1912, and its first meeting was held on July 10, 1912. It has since that time held numerous meetings, and has received many suggestions from members of the House and from the public. It has also conducted extensive research into the various problems connected with the government of the United States.

The Commission has found that there is a widespread feeling of dissatisfaction with the present form of government, and that there is a general desire for a more efficient and economical system. It has endeavored to identify the causes of these conditions, and to propose effective remedies.

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Respectfully submitted,

THOMAS W. BAILEY
Acting Chairman of the Commission