

HOUSE No. 6127

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Department
State House, Boston 02133, August 13, 1970.

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, House Bill No. 5837 entitled "AN ACT EXPEDITING THE PLACEMENT AND ADOPTION OF CHILDREN."

This bill would require the Department of Public Welfare to notify all children's foster care agencies of the availability for adoption of children in its custody within sixty days of the date when the parents had consented to the adoption of the child.

The intent of this legislation is constructive, in that it attempts to insure that information about children who are available for adoption shall be made known to interested parties. However, there is already in existence an Adoption Resource Exchange which is a joint venture of the Department of Public Welfare and voluntary agencies supported in part by federal funds. Its function is to expedite the adoption of hard-to-place children and it has met with considerable success.

In order to avoid unnecessary administrative burdens on the Welfare Department, while preserving the intent of the bill, I believe that the bill should be amended to provide that notice to foster care agencies may properly be administered through the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange.

I therefore recommend the bill be amended as follows: —

By adding after the word "adoption" in line three of the engrossed bill, the following: — ", or it shall contract with an adoption resource exchange for the giving of said notice."

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCIS W. SARGENT,
Acting Governor of the Commonwealth.

