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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,  
STATE HOUSE • BOSTON 02133  
April 1, 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, Senate Bill No. 1298 entitled "AN ACT INCREASING THE SALARIES OF THE FIRST, SECOND, THIRD AND FOURTH ASSISTANT REGISTERS OF DEEDS FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MIDDLESEX AND PROVIDING FOR A FIFTH AND SIXTH ASSISTANT REGISTER OF DEEDS FOR SAID DISTRICT."

The salaries of registers of deeds and all assistant registers of deeds are paid by their respective counties. Salary rates for assistant registers of deeds are fixed by statute for Suffolk County and for the Southern District of Middlesex. The salary rates for all other registries are fixed by the County Personnel Board under the classification plan.

The Suffolk County salaries have been set by statute since 1948. The Southern District of Middlesex salaries were set by an act of 1960.

The bill before me deals only with the Southern District of Middlesex. It provides for a fifth and sixth assistant register of deeds in that district, and increases the salaries of the existing four assistant registers. These increases are substantial, in one case raising the amount from the present \$8,800 to \$14,000, and for the other three from \$8,200 to \$12,000.

With such a substantial amount being sought, and with the cost being passed on to the real estate taxpayers of Middlesex County, I believe that now is the time to recommend that this district be returned to the jurisdiction of the County Personnel

Board. These salaries should be set with some relation to the workload of the registry, and in comparison with the salaries paid in other registries across the commonwealth. The County Personnel Board now makes these judgments for all the other registries.

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

“By striking out sections two and three, and inserting in place thereof the following new sections: —

SECTION 2. The third paragraph of section 33 of chapter 36 of the General Laws, as amended by section 4 of chapter 761 of the acts of 1960, is hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. The first sentence of section 49 of chapter 35 of the General Laws, as appearing in section 1 of chapter 841 of the acts of 1963, is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 10 and 11, the words “the assistant registers of deeds for the southern district of Middlesex.”

SECTION 4. Section one of this act shall take effect as of January the first, nineteen hundred and seventy. Section two and three of this act shall take effect upon the amendment of the classification and compensation plan to include the assistant registers of deeds for the southern district of Middlesex, as provided in sections forty-eight to fifty-six inclusive of chapter 35 of the General Laws.”

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCIS W. SARGENT.

*Acting Governor,  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts.*