

HOUSE No. 4966

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR
ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133, JANUARY 25, 1971.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

Pursuant to G.L. c. 7, s. 4, I am submitting herewith legislation providing for a system of awards for exceptionally meritorious service by officers and employees of the Commonwealth, establishing a Merit Awards Review Committee within the Executive Office for Administration and Finance, and abolishing the Suggestion Awards Board.

Under the proposed system, cash awards would be made annually to state officers and employees selected by the new Merit Awards Review Committee from nominations submitted by the various appointing authorities. The Committee would consist of three or more members appointed by the Commissioner of Administration who are themselves officers or employees of the Commonwealth, but no two of whom could be appointed from the same agency.

Since the scope of the functions of the Merit Awards Review Committee would be broad enough to include those of the Suggestion Awards Board, the latter agency would be abolished.

I strongly recommend the enactment of this legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES E. SHEPARD,
Commissioner of Administration.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-One.

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A SYSTEM OF AWARDS FOR EXCEPTIONALLY MERITORIOUS SERVICE BY OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE COMMONWEALTH, ESTABLISHING A MERIT AWARDS REVIEW COMMITTEE WITHIN THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE, AND ABOLISHING THE SUGGESTION AWARDS BOARD.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 4G of chapter 7 of the General Laws,
2 as appearing in section 8 of chapter 704 of the acts of 1969, is
3 hereby amended by inserting in line 7, after the word “seven-
4 ty;”, the words: — the merit awards review committee.

1 SECTION 2. Said chapter 7 is hereby further amended by
2 inserting after section 28A the following section: —

3 *Section 28B.* There shall be within the executive office for
4 administration and finance a merit awards review committee,
5 hereinafter called the committee. The committee shall be com-
6 posed of not less than three members, to be appointed annu-
7 ally on March fifteenth by the commissioner for a term of one
8 year. Each member of the committee shall be an officer or
9 employee of the commonwealth at the time of his appointment
10 thereto, but, except for their membership on the committee,
11 no two members serving at any one time shall hold an office or
12 position in the same state agency. The commissioner shall from
13 time to time designate one of the members of the committee
14 as its chairman.

15 The committee shall annually make cash awards, from funds
16 appropriated therefor, to officers and employees of the com-
17 monwealth in recognition of exceptionally meritorious service.
18 The selection of the recipients of such awards shall be made by
19 the committee from nominations submitted by the several

20 appointing authorities within the executive department of the
21 commonwealth. The amount of each such award shall, subject
22 to the availability of funds, be determined by the committee;
23 provided, that no award shall be in an amount exceeding one
24 hundred dollars. For purposes of this section, "exceptionally
25 meritorious service" shall be defined as superior accomplish-
26 ment by an officer or employee which contributes to the
27 effectiveness of the operations of state government, or a par-
28 ticular act or service in the public interest which is related to
29 his office or employment.

30 The commissioner shall make, and may from time to time
31 amend, rules to carry out the provisions and purposes of this
32 section.

1 SECTION 3. Section 31A of said chapter 7 is hereby re-
2 pealed.

3 SECTION 4. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary
4 in section 28B of chapter 7 of the General Laws, inserted by
5 section 2 of this act, the first appointments to the merit
6 awards review committee established thereby shall be made on
7 the effective date thereof or as soon as practicable thereafter,
8 and the terms of the persons so appointed shall expire on
9 March fifteenth, nineteen hundred and seventy-one.

1 SECTION 5. This act shall take effect conformably to law,
2 except that section 1 shall take effect on April thirtieth,
3 nineteen hundred and seventy-one.

