
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, May 6, 1971.*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. 236 entitled, "AN ACT RELATIVE TO ELIMINATING DISCRIMINATION IN CREDIT, SERVICES OR RENTAL ACCOMMODATIONS TO CERTAIN RECIPIENTS OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE."

This bill would expand the jurisdiction of the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination to cover alleged discriminatory practices by any persons furnishing credit, services, or renting accommodations to individuals who are recipients of federal, state or local public assistance, including medical assistance, rental assistance, rent supplements, or a tenant receiving a government housing subsidy, because of such individual's status as such recipient. The bill would permit the MCAD to enforce this provision in the same way it enforces prohibitions against discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, and age. A complaint is filed with the commission, an investigation and hearing are held, and an order is issued either dismissing the complaint or requiring remedial action. Judicial review of commission orders is provided.

In the year 1969, some 513 complaints were filed with the MCAD. In 1970, 904 complaints were filed, an increase of 69%. This legislation would undoubtedly add significantly to the number of complaints now being heard by the MCAD. For that reason, I believe it is desirable to clarify the language of the bill to make clear what is its intent — to prevent discrimination solely because a person is a recipient of assistance.

I therefore recommend the bill be amended as follows: —

By striking out, in lines three and four of the engrossed bill, the words "because of such individual's status as such recipient." and inserting in place thereof the following words: — solely because of the individual is such a recipient.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCIS W. SARGENT,
Governor of the Commonwealth.

The University of Maryland

THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND

The Board of Regents of the University of Maryland
in accordance with the provisions of Article 21 of the
Constitution of the State of Maryland, do hereby
authorize the President of the University to
enter into an agreement with the State of Maryland
for the purpose of providing for the maintenance
of the University of Maryland at College Park.

The Board of Regents of the University of Maryland
do hereby authorize the President of the University
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Respectfully submitted,

FRANCIS W. BARNETT