

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, October 8, 1971.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

In accordance with the provisions of Article LVI of the Amendments to the Constitution, I am returning, herewith, House Bill No. 5115 entitled "RESOLVE PROVIDING FOR AN INVESTIGATION AND STUDY BY A SPECIAL COMMISSION RELATIVE TO THE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT OF THOSE CONFINED WITHIN THE CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM OF THE COMMONWEALTH."

This resolve sets up a special commission to make a study into the correctional system of the Commonwealth. The commission could, if properly constituted, make a significant contribution to better understanding of our prison system and develop meaningful recommendations for legislation.

The mandate of this commission is extremely broad. It is to consider the problems of probation, sentencing, inmate counseling and education, parole among others. I believe that this commission would be strengthened by expanding it to permit the inclusion of experts in the field of correction administration, vocational training and education, and probation and parole. In this manner, the commission would have the services of professional members which under the present structure would not all be permitted.

The correctional system is among the most urgent areas in need of study. I have recently appointed a special advisory commission, the Elam Commission, which will report to me within a few weeks. The special commission created by this resolve, however, appears to have a more permanent status. I therefore feel it is particularly important that it have a membership which will better enable it to accomplish its important aims.

I therefore recommend the bill be amended as follows: —

By striking out the first paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph: — RESOLVED, That a special commission to consist of two members of the Senate, five members of the House of Representatives, and five persons to be appointed by the

Governor, at least one of whom shall be experienced in the field of correction administration, one of whom shall be experienced in the field of inmate vocational training and education, and one of whom shall be experienced in the fields of probation or parole, is hereby established for the purpose of making an investigation and study relative to enhancing the human development of those confined or controlled by the correctional system of the Commonwealth.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCIS W. SARGENT,
Governor of the Commonwealth.