

*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

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MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR  
RETURNING WITH HIS OBJECTIONS THERETO IN  
WRITING, UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF ARTI-  
CLE II OF SECTION I OF CHAPTER I OF PART  
THE SECOND OF THE CONSTITUTION, THE  
ENGROSSED BILL EXEMPTING CERTAIN  
POLICE OFFICERS FROM CERTAIN  
EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

(see Senate, No. 1987, amended)

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June 26, 1979.

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*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

## EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

STATE HOUSE      BOSTON 02133

June 26, 1979

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:*

I am returning, herewith, without my approval, Senate Bill No. 1897, "An Act Exempting Certain Police Officers from Certain Educational Requirements."

Senate 1897 would allow towns with a population of 7,000, or less, to exempt reserve or intermittent police officers from the statutory provisions for police training.

In my judgment, the passage of this legislation would be a step backward. The job of a police officer has become far too complex for us to simply create police officers by giving individuals a gun and a badge. Appropriate training is vital, if we are to provide our citizens with proper law enforcement.

A recent survey conducted by the Massachusetts Criminal Justice Training Council has indicated that there are no significant differences between the job of police officer in a large city or a small town. In addition, the training required is provided to our municipalities by the Council without cost. The training program consists of a home-study course that is administered on Saturdays so that there is no reason for the police officer to lose time from the job. I can, therefore, see no justification for allowing any city or town to exempt their police officers from the educational requirements statutorily provided for in section 96B of Chapter 41 of the General Laws.

For these reasons, I cannot sign S-1897 into law.

Respectfully submitted

Edward J. King

*Governor*

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

