

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

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WILLIAM F. WELD
GOVERNOR

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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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To the Honorable House of Representatives:

Pursuant to Part the Second, Chapter I, Section I, Article II of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I am returning unsigned House Bill No. 1010, entitled "An Act Relative to City, Town or Authority Contracts with Private Fire-Fighting Units."

Under M.G.L. c. 48, § 44A, cities and towns are precluded from contracting for services from private fire-fighting units unless those units have first been certified by the department of public safety. This bill amends § 44A to similarly limit use of private fire-fighting units by authorities.

This bill, perhaps inadvertently, threatens airport operations both at Logan International Airport and Hanscom Field. For reasons of airport security and passenger safety, I am vetoing the bill.

Aircraft rescue and fire-fighting are highly specialized functions that require aviation-specific training which is not the standard training regimen for firefighters. Pursuant to Federal Aviation Administration rules, firefighters deployed by Massport are required to have this training and be familiar with all types of aircraft that use the airports. Failure to meet these additional requirements could result in revocation of FAA certification and jeopardize safety.

For these reasons, I am returning House Bill No. 1010 unsigned.

Respectfully submitted,

William F. Weld
Governor

