

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
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MITT ROMNEY
GOVERNOR

KERRY HEALEY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

February 9, 2006.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

Pursuant to Article LVI of the Constitution of the Commonwealth, as amended by Article XC, Section 3 of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth, I am returning to you for amendment House Bill No. 4352, "An Act Authorizing the Application of Benjamin Jorress for a Civil Service Examination for Police Officer Notwithstanding the Minimum Age Requirement."

On January 5, 2005, Chapter 467 of the Acts of 2005 increased the minimum age for police officers from nineteen to twenty-one years of age. One consequence of this change was that many applicants who met the minimum age requirement when they applied to take the April 2005 police officer civil service examination were later deemed to be ineligible. House Bill No. 4352 corrects this situation and authorizes the Human Resources Division (HRD) to administer the exam to one of those applicants. Absent such legislation, the named individual would have to wait until 2007 to take the exam.

According to HRD, there are approximately 290 other applicants who, like the individual named in House Bill No. 4352, were denied the opportunity to take the April 2005 exam solely because they did not meet the new minimum age requirement. My proposed amendment will treat all such applicants equally and will allow those who applied for the civil service test prior to January 5, 2005 to take the exam this spring, provided that they will have reached twenty-one years of age at the time HRD administers the examination. Because the applicants are responsible for paying an examination fee, HRD estimates that administering the exam will be self-funding.

Accordingly, I propose that the bill be amended as follows:

By striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the following:

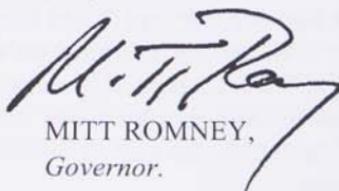
“Section 1. Notwithstanding section 58 of chapter 31 of the General Laws, chapter 12 of the acts of 2005, or any other general or special law to the contrary, the personnel administrator of the human resources division within the executive office for administration and finance may accept any previously filed application for the April 2005 civil service examination for police officers; provided however, the applicant shall have applied to take said examination prior to January 5, 2005 and was at least 19 years of age at the time the application was filed with the human resources division; provided further, the applicant shall have reached his or her 21st birthday on or before the date of any re-examination hereunder.

Section 2. The human resources division may hold a re-examination for the said April 2005 examination on or before May 31, 2006. Applicants eligible under section 1 of this act shall apply with the human resources division for the re-examination no later than April 30, 2006.”;

and by striking out the title and inserting in place thereof the following title:

“An Act Relative to the Police Civil Service Examination.”

Respectfully submitted,



MITT ROMNEY,
Governor.