

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
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MITT ROMNEY
GOVERNOR

KERRY HEALEY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

ATTACHMENT A

October 30, 2003.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

Pursuant to Article 56, as amended by Article 90, Section 3 of the Amendments to the Constitution, I am returning to you for amendment Section 14A of House Bill 4248, "An Act Relative to the Inland Fisheries and Game Fund."

Section 14A as it is currently written does not include the proposed newly created Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage Escrow Fund ("Fund") in the calculation of the consolidated net surplus pursuant to section 5C of chapter 29 of the General Laws. Excluding the Fund from such calculations risks putting the fiscal year 2004 budget out of balance. The Commonwealth is currently relying on approximately \$271 million that would be included in the Fund to balance our budget.

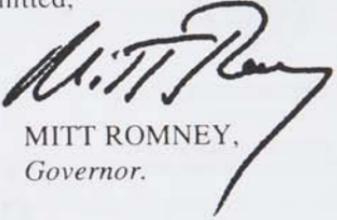
I therefore recommend that section 14A of House Bill No. 4248 be amended by striking the original language of section 14A in its entirety and inserting in its place the following:

SECTION 14A. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the comptroller shall deposit fiscal relief funds and increased federal Medicaid assistance percentage funds received from the federal government during fiscal years 2004 and 2005 pursuant to the Jobs Growth Reconciliation Act of 2003, so called, in excess of the amount transferred to the uncompensated care trust fund by section 618 of chapter 26 of the Acts of

2003, to the Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage Escrow Fund. Said fund shall be subject to appropriation, shall contribute to the calculation of the consolidated net surplus pursuant to section 5C of chapter 29 of the General Laws, and shall expire June 30, 2005 at which time the comptroller shall transfer any remaining fund balance to the Stabilization Fund.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,



MITT ROMNEY,
Governor.