

HOUSE . . . . . No. 20

---

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

---

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,  
200 NEWBURY STREET, BOSTON 16, November 4, 1958.

*To the Honorable Senate and the House of Representatives.*

GENTLEMEN:— In accordance with the provisions of section 33 of chapter 30 of the General Laws, a copy of the recommendations for legislation to be contained in the annual report of this Department (Public Document No. 2) is submitted, together with drafts of bills embodying the legislation recommended. The drafts of legislation have been submitted to the Counsel of the Senate as required by law.

ALICE M. LYONS,  
*Chairman, Board of Education.*

## RECOMMENDATIONS.

AN ACT RELATING TO THE SALARY OF THE COMMISSIONER  
OF EDUCATION.

This bill strikes out the second sentence of section 1B of chapter 15 of the General Laws which contains a provision for salary of \$14,000 for the Commissioner of Education and inserts in place thereof a salary not to exceed \$20,000.

For a great many years past, the Commissioner of Education happened to be the highest paid department head in the Commonwealth, and during said period the salary was only \$1,000 less than that of the Governor.

Further, many of the larger States, such as New York, New Jersey, California, etc., pay the Commissioner of Education salaries of \$20,000, \$25,000 and \$30,000, while in Massachusetts itself, the City of Boston pays its superintendent of schools \$20,000, and Springfield, \$15,000, both of which are in excess of the present salary of the Massachusetts Commissioner of Education. Therefore the Department recommends the passage of the accompanying bill designated as Appendix A.

AN ACT RELATING TO THE PRINTING AND PUBLISHING OF THE  
ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

The Department of Education, since its inception under Horace Mann in 1837, has annually printed and published annual reports which constitute a continuous history of our educational activities.

To achieve clarity, it has been our practice during the past few decades to issue said reports annually in two parts, *vi.*, Part I, which contain the running story (essay type), and Part II, which is strictly statistical, containing 80,000 separate and distinct items relating to 351 cities and towns of the Commonwealth.

After the outbreak of World War II, and allegedly for economy purposes, the General Court ceased to appropriate money to print Part I, but did allow us to print and publish Part II. Therefore,

for seventeen years the public has not had access to our very important Part I, which is an extremely important educational and historical series. We, of course, have prepared and assembled annually three copies of Part I ready for printing, and we now believe that the General Court will realize the necessity of having the same printed in reasonable numbers so as to assure the unbroken continuity of the history of our Department of Education, the first, and now the oldest in America.

Thereafter the Department recommends the passage of the accompanying bill designated as Appendix B.

#### AN ACT RELATING TO SCHOOL REGISTERS.

From 1838 to 1957 school registers which record the daily attendance have been kept by school teachers in accordance with the statute (General Laws, chapter 72, section 8). The statute was amended in 1957 to provide that the school committee shall cause the registers of daily attendance to be faithfully kept under the direction of the superintendent, who shall make due return thereof to the school committee or to such persons as it may designate.

In recent years large cities, such as Boston, Springfield and Newton, are interested in establishing attendance record procedures involving the use of business machines. Because reference in the pertinent statutes are made to the school registers, it is felt that permissive legislation must be sought to allow for the use of automation equipment with the approval of the Department. As such legislation would save many hours of clerical time, especially in the large school systems, the Department recommends the passage of the accompanying bill designated as Appendix C.

#### AN ACT RELATING TO THE TITLE OF THE MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL OF ART.

Despite many years of successful operation of the Massachusetts School of Art, confusion remains in the public mind that the institution may not be of collegiate level. As a matter of fact, it is on the same scholastic level as the teachers colleges, and is a degree-granting institution, as are the teachers colleges. Therefore it is deemed to be highly desirable that the name be Massachusetts college of Art, as it is empowered to award degrees to all its graduates

it would enhance the prestige of the school, its students, and its alumni by distinguishing it from ordinary art schools which are non-degree-granting institutions; and finally, it would facilitate the transfer of credits by students who desire to transfer from this college to another, as well as seniors who apply for admission to graduate schools.

Therefore the Department recommends the passage of the accompanying bill designated as Appendix D.

#### AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS.

The division of library extension operates under certain sections in chapters 15 and 78 of the General Laws. Certain sections appear to need clarification, and therefore the Board of Library Commissioners and the Board of Education have deemed it important to re-draft certain of the existing statutes in order to clarify the relationship between the Board of Education, and the Board of Library Commissioners, and the powers and duties of each relating thereto. Therefore the Department recommends the passage of the accompanying bill designated as Appendix E.