# HOUSE . . . . . No. 5893

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, July 2, 1971.

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:*

In accordance with the provisions of Article LVI of the Amendments to the Constitution, I am returning, herewith, House Bill No. 5640 entitled "AN ACT FURTHER REGULATING THE LAW RELATIVE TO THE PROTECTION OF CERTAIN PERSONS FROM UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATION."

This bill would amend the anti-discrimination laws to expand the definition of unlawful practices by making it unlawful to discriminate on the basis of sex or age in dealing with the rental, leasing or sale of housing accommodations or commercial space or in the furnishing of facilities or services in connection therewith.

I am advised by the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination that, while it is in accord with the bill, that it could inadvertently change the existing eligibility requirements for admission to elderly housing projects in the commonwealth. I believe that it should be made clear that no discriminatory act occurs when only the elderly are admitted to elderly housing projects.

I therefore recommend the bill be amended as follows: –

By adding at the end thereof a new section: –

SECTION 2. Nothing contained in this chapter shall be interpreted to change eligibility requirements with respect to age for residency in state-aided or federal elderly housing developments as set forth in chapter 121B and rules and regulations issued thereunder.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCIS W. SARGENT,
*Governor of the Commonwealth.*