

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE HOUSE • BOSTON 02133

MICHAEL S. DUKAKIS
GOVERNOR

June 13, 1978

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. 4771, entitled, "An Act Relative to the Powers and Duties of Railroad Police Officers."

H.4771 would expand the powers of railroad police officers by allowing them to "stop and frisk" suspicious persons and disperse potentially disruptive assemblies within the territorial limits of the railroads. It would also require such officers to complete a training course at a school approved by the criminal justice training council before exercising these additional powers.

I understand that H.4771 was intended to empower railroad police officers to enforce the motor vehicle laws within railroad property. I have no objection to such a bill, but H.4771 as currently drafted goes beyond this purpose. The amendment I am proposing would conform the bill to its' sponsors' original intent and would extend the training course requirement to the exercise of other police powers by railroad police.

I therefore recommend that H.4771 be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the following:-

SECTION 1. Section 93 of chapter 159 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:-

In addition to the aforementioned powers railroad police officers shall have, on the property of their respective railroads, the powers which are conferred or imposed upon police officers of cities and towns to issue citations for violations of the provisions of chapter ninety.

No railroad police officer shall exercise any powers of police pursuant to this section until such officer has satisfactorily completed a six-week course of study at a training school approved by the Massachusetts criminal justice training council.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Michael S. Dukakis
Governor

