

HOUSE No. 1976

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, MASS., May 28, 1937.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

I am returning herewith House Bill 1940, entitled, "An Act further regulating the hours during which the Offices of State Departments, including Registries of Probate, shall be Open for the Transaction of Business".

It would appear on the bill before me, that the employees of the State under the arrangement would be required to work some additional hours per year. In addition, the vacation season would automatically take out certain Saturdays during the Summer months, in which event the employees would not need the benefit of this act.

I do not believe that any one particular department should receive any specific exemption in contravention to the principle involved, to wit, a five day week, which is the motive prompting this legislation.

Because of the fact that there are three separate and distinct sub-divisions of State government as regulated by the State Constitution; namely, the Judiciary, the Legislative and the Executive branches, I do not believe that that section of the bill referring to Registries of Probate would be effective in securing the result contemplated, and is entirely beyond the scope of its original intent.

I therefore recommend for enactment the following amendment:

Chapter thirty of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section twenty-four, as appearing in the Tercentenary Edition, and inserting in place

thereof the following: *Section 24.* The Offices of all the departments of the state government shall be open to the public for the transaction of business daily, on days other than Sundays and legal holidays, from nine o'clock in the forenoon until five o'clock in the afternoon, except that on Saturdays beginning with the second Saturday in September and ending with the next to the last Saturday in May they may be closed at twelve o'clock noon and that on Saturdays beginning with the last Saturday in May and ending with the first Saturday in September they may be closed all day. When the day or the last day for the performance of any act, including the making of any payment or tender of payment, authorized or required to be performed at the office of any such department falls on a Saturday when such office is closed under authority of this section, the act may be performed on the next succeeding business day.

CHARLES F. HURLEY.