

HOUSE No. 4055

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

August 3, 2021

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives,

I am returning unsigned House Bill No. 4016, “An Act establishing a special legislative commission to study poverty in the Commonwealth.”

This bill establishes a special commission to investigate and recommend methods for reducing poverty in the Commonwealth over the next 10-year period. The commission is tasked with meeting on a quarterly basis and conducting at least two public hearings in advance of filing a report of its findings with the Legislature on or before December 31, 2022.

This bill was originally included as an outside section in the FY22 budget, and I returned a compromise version to the Legislature. As I said in my amendment letter, I strongly support the aim of this commission. However, in my view, to streamline the efforts of the commission and permit the meaningful participation of all members, it is necessary to modify its composition, retaining the position reserved for the Secretary of Health and Human Services and otherwise removing additional representation from the Executive Branch. Without these amendments, I do not support the proposal.

For these reasons, I am returning House Bill No. 4016 unsigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles D. Baker,
Governor