

HOUSE No. 4822

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



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To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives,

Pursuant to Part the Second, Chapter I, Section I, Article II of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I am returning to you unsigned House Bill 4805, “An Act relative to work and family mobility.”

I cannot sign this legislation because it requires the Registry of Motor Vehicles to issue state credentials to people without the ability to verify their identity. The Registry does not have the expertise or ability to verify the validity of many types of documents from other countries. This legislation also undoes a critical safeguard to the driver’s license issuance process that I signed into law just six years ago. Consequently, a standard Massachusetts driver’s license will no longer confirm that a person is who they say they are.

This bill also fails to include any measures to distinguish standard Massachusetts driver’s licenses issued to persons who demonstrate lawful presence from those who do not. Additionally, it restricts the Registry’s ability to share citizenship information with those entities responsible for ensuring that only citizens register for and vote in our elections. This bill significantly increases the risk that noncitizens will be registered to vote.

For these reasons, I am returning House Bill 4805 unsigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles D. Baker,
Governor