

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 3979

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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DEVAL L. PATRICK  
GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

April 13, 2007.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

Pursuant to Article LVI, as amended by Article XC, Section 3 of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I am returning to you for amendment House Bill No. 3967, “An Act Further Regulating the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination.”

This bill would return the MCAD to the Executive Office for Administration and Finance, though “not subject to its control.” It would also require the MCAD to operate a Worcester office, in addition to its current New Bedford and Springfield offices.

Consistent with my Reorganization Plan 2007-1, this bill seems intended to give the MCAD a fresh start in its important mission to protect the citizens of our Commonwealth from all forms of discrimination. I share the Legislature’s goal, and in order to further it, I believe it is important to promptly give the Administration the latitude to reconstitute the Commission.

I therefore recommend that House Bill No. 3967 be amended by striking out section 5 and inserting in place thereof the following section:—

SECTION 5. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the terms of the present commissioners of the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination shall expire 30 days after the effective date of this Act. The governor shall initially appoint 1 commissioner for a term of 1 year, 1 commissioner for a term of 2 years, and 1 commissioner for a term of 3 years.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deval Patrick", written over a horizontal line.

DEVAL L. PATRICK,  
*Governor.* □